

# GADGETS

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH

## SUZUKI ADDRESS

Jo Luzarraga and Iago Faria ride in style with this head-turning scooter.



### Reviewed

Lenovo Vibe Shot  
Philips Brilliance 275C  
Sapphire Radeon R7 240  
Starmobile Knight Vision  
Mi Fit  
Mi 4i  
Volkswagen Polo Hatchback AT  
Mazda CX-5 SKYACTIV

### Lenovo Vibe Shot



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WATER WADING



TERRAIN  
MANAGEMENT



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CONTROL



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DIFFERENTIAL

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## Lenovo VIBE Shot





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The quintessential gadgets girl who loves all things Mac, red, and blingy. She's also recently taken a liking to Windows phones. What's in her bag? Lots of wires and cords, several external drives, and power banks. Hide your flash drives, though, they disappear around her.

@bellealba



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@lengdesuasido



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GRAPHIC ARTIST

"RAAAAAHHHGH HUURH  
AAAAAHNR UUGHHHHHGH!!"

@emnluz



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CONTRIBUTOR

Happy 24th Birthday Ian John Pascua Asuncion! xoxo

@jonahmendoza



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There are few words that are as important in the tech scene now as "connectivity." As technology scales smaller and smaller, more and more things are getting connected, and not just to the World Wide Web, but to each other. While we've had fridges, TVs, and even cars get connected before, the kind of connectivity we're looking at now goes so much broader and deeper. Soon, everything will be talking to, communicating with, and sharing information across everything else, all on their own, in the background. More and more, our world is getting connected, and so are we. Take a look at all the connections we have, and all the others we're going to be building with tech in our issue this month. You might think you're really plugged in now, but you really haven't seen anything yet.



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# Maximum Efficiency Minimum Fuss

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## Connectivity brings convenience

Enjoy convenience, flexibility and easy connectivity to multiple devices with smart built-in features such as **Mobile Printing** that simply boost productivity.



## High productivity. Less fuss.

Eliminate excessive downtime with **Brother networking administration tools (BRAdmin Professional Software)** which provides status monitoring and configuration capabilities.



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SRP: **P24,990.00**



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**MFC-L9550CDW**  
5-in-1 Wireless Network-Ready  
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with Duplex Printing  
SRP: **P59,950.00**



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### VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2



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Razer fanboys, unite!





# Go Deeper.

You know no matter how deep you dive, there is always more to explore. No matter how often you dive, there are more secrets to uncover. But you keep diving because you know a deeper experience awaits each time you journey below the surface.

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# HOOQ



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## BITS & BYTES

Everything you need to know about the ins and outs of tech.





#### Enhanced Smart Power

Honda's innovative engine technology applied globally through cutting-edge technology and ACG starter, perfectly designed to produce high performance, with better fuel efficiency and environment friendly emissions.



#### Combined Brake System (CBS)\*

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\*Available in CBS/ISS variant only



#### Idling Stop System (ISS)\*

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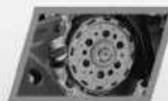
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Fuel supply system with electronic control technology, capable of optimally supplying fuel and air, to give efficient engine power with low emissions.



#### ACG Starter System

Combination of a generator and starter in a single system for a smooth and noiseless starting of the engine.



#### CVT (Continuous Variable Transmission) with V-belt

Optimized v-belt transmission design that gives intelligent low friction and low vibration during acceleration.





## ◀ **WD Black 6TB** Hard Disk Drive

The WD Black 6TB hard drives present just the right solution for gamers and professionals in need of high-performance desktop systems and workstations. These hard drives combine 7200rpm performance, a 128MB cache, dual stage actuator technology, a 6GB per second SATA interface, and an integrated dual processor which all work together to swiftly handle intense computing with ease. The WD Black 6TB variants feature increased reliability thanks to built-in StableTrac technology, increased DRAM cache, an efficient dual-core processor, and a 5-year limited warranty. With outstanding system performance and generous capacity, gamers, enthusiasts, and creatives can now push the boundaries of personalization without the need to compromise.

## **WD Red Pro ▶** Hard Disk Drive

There's literally no harm in having more than enough disk space for all your multimedia files—the danger lies in choosing subpar drives that are just one bump away from catastrophic failure. WD realizes just how important your data is and has updated their WD Red Pro with bigger 5TB and 6TB capacities for even more storage goodness. Built for Network Attached Storage systems, these boast 128mb cache for 214MB/s transfer rates, WD NASware 3.0 support, multi-axis shock protection, hardware vibration compensation, and 5-year limited warranty for your utmost peace of mind. The WD Red Pro guarantees that your data remains as fresh as the day they were first archived.

**PHP 14,200 (5TB)**  
**PHP 15,800 (6TB)**





## Lenovo Vibe Shot ▼

### Smartphone

The Vibe Shot is a beautifully crafted 5-inch smartphone that packs features sure to appeal to photography junkies and social media enthusiasts alike. Highlighted in this compact handset is a 16MP rear shooter that comes with various technologies such as the Tricolor LED flash, OIS, 6P lens with blue glass filter and sapphire cover, and "Auto" and "Pro" mode. On the side of the device is an easily accessible dedicated shutter button for instantly activating the camera function. On the inside, the Vibe Shot runs Android Lollipop 5.1 and is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 1.7GHz octa-core processor paired with 3GB of RAM that promises to deliver outstanding performance no matter the amount of tasks thrown at it. Complementing its impressive specs are 32GB of onboard storage (expandable up to 128GB via a microSD card), 4G/LTE support, and dual microSIM slots. Apart from its stylish form factor and undeniable processing power, the Lenovo Vibe Shot gives you a device you need and a camera you will love.

**PHP 17,999**





## Pioneer HDJ-1500 Gold ▶ Headphones

It is about time to replace the worn-out generic earbuds that came with your smartphone. Why not replace it with headphones that look good and produce great sound? That's just what Pioneer DJ's popular HDJ-1500 in gold offers. This pair of cans give you flawless audio reproduction, absolute comfort, sophisticated style, and excellent durability all in one device. With 50mm drivers, every time you hit play, you only get deep bass notes and clear mid to low frequencies. It also comes built with rare earth magnets and 38µm-thick diaphragms, while high output levels ensure pristine sound even at loud volumes. Eliminating background noise is a revolutionary proprietary sound chamber so you only hear the sound you want. With a lightweight build, hinged ear cups, and interchangeable foam ear pads, the HDJ-1500 headphone guarantees long hours of comfortable and amplified music listening.



## Pioneer DDJ-SB2 ▼ DJ Controller

This entry level DDJ-SB2 Serato DJ controller is for those aspiring DJs looking for uncompromising control. Like its predecessor, the two-channel DDJ-SB2 features Filter Fade, Performance Pads, a trim pot, level meters, Pad Trans beat effect, and 4-deck control—all advanced offerings that are a rarity at this price range. It's also a compact plug-and-play, USB-powered affair that allows you complete mastery over Serato DJ Intro (bundled free) and Serato DJ (paid upgrade) with includes iZotope FX, Slip Mode, record, and a barrage of expansion packs. Dropping the bass has never been this affordable.







## Starmobile Uno B509 ▲

Feature phone

Want a simple, no-frills feature phone, but can't find a brand you can trust? Clearly you haven't seen Starmobile's Uno B509. More than just a throwback to when T9 keyboards were the in thing, the Uno B509 is the perfect complement to your smartphone with its Bluetooth Dialer, Notifier, and Remote Control functions. It also has a 2.8-inch IPS screen, 2MP main camera, 1,000 SMS and 1,000 contacts memory capacity, and a 1300mAh battery allowing it days upon days of use. If you're a commuter, frequent traveller, or just plain hate taking your phone out in sketchy public places, the Uno B509 will be your main driver's new best friend.

**PHP 1,199**

## Leef iBridge ►

USB OTG for iOS devices

Leef, a company that creates products that people want to own, has a new offering for iOS users who want to get more from their devices. The iBridge is a compact and stylish plug-in memory accessory for iOS devices. Just plug the iBridge directly into a compatible Apple device and, right then and there, your Camera Roll gets automatically backed up, you get to store your entire movie or music library, and save captured photos directly to the iBridge. It comes in a sleek, ergonomic "J" shaped form factor that is meant to neatly curve round the back of your device rather than sticking out awkwardly. On top of that, the iBridge is battery-efficient and features a standard Hi-Speed USB connector on the other end allowing users to quickly share content cross platform with Macs or Windows PCs. The Leef iBridge is available in 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB capacities.

**PHP 3,200 (16GB)**





## Cherry Mobile G1 ▶

### Smartphone

If you don't quite have the budget for a high-end Android phone, Cherry Mobile offers a brilliant, wallet-friendly alternative in the G1. As Cherry Mobile's second take on the Android One initiative, the G1 runs Android 5.1 Lollipop out-of-the-box and will receive guaranteed OS updates for up to two years. It packs solid specs such as a quad-core Snapdragon processor that clocks in at 1.2GHz and is paired with an Adreno 306 GPU and 2GB of RAM. It comes with 16GB of onboard memory and is expandable up to 64GB via microSD to satisfy the entertainment-junkie in you. On top of giving you an authentic vanilla Android experience, you also have LTE connectivity, Bluetooth 4.0, 2500mAh battery, 5-inch IPS display protected by a Dragontrail glass panel, and 5MP with BSI front- and 13MP with BSI rear-shooters all in one sleek and lightweight device.

**PHP 5,999**



## MSI Z170A XPower Gaming Titanium Edition ▲

### Motherboard

Intel's next generation Skylake processors are here, ushering in a new era of motherboards dedicated to squeezing every bit of performance out of the microarchitecture. MSI's already bearing down on the hype with the new Z170 Enthusiast Gaming motherboard, and as its name suggests, it's jam-packed with features enough to court even the most hardcore users. Not only does it strut the Z170 chipset for stable overlocks, it also features mainstream DDR4 support, Twin Turbo M.2 interface for 64GB/s data access speeds, Audio Boost 3 and Nahimic Audio for immersive in-game sounds, Steel Armor reinforced PCI-e slots, and USB 3.1 ports. Other features like BIOS Flashback, Gaming Hotkey, Gaming LAN, and Military Class 5 components all ensure performance never before seen in the consumer market.



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- 1 Cell 3450 Mah • Android 4.4

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**SRP: Php 27,499**

*Promo Period: August 1 - September 30, 2015*

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• Ormoc.net • Thinking Tools Inc. • X-Comp

#### (Mindanao)

• AJ Softdrive • Biologic Systems • DC Tech • Digital Interface • Global Chips • Microtronics Marketing • Rasi Computer Davao • Unicenter Communication

## Halo Jersey ▶

### Samsung Galaxy S6 Case

The Halo Jersey is a folio-type case fashioned to complement the sophisticated look of your Samsung Galaxy S6. A combination of style, function, and protection, it comes with a matte plastic case inside attached to its PU leather case exterior that folds in a way that allows horizontal viewing. It also seamlessly pairs with your device, with exact cuts for the camera and other buttons. With a thin and sleek form factor, the Jersey is the perfect partner to your Samsung Galaxy S6.

**PHP 295**



## ◀ Halo Ivor Phone Case

Looking for a phone case that's secure enough to throw around, without your device getting beat up? The Halo Ivor is a great option for that. Made out of water-resistant material for extra durability, this case is perfect for those who are always on the go. You can easily slip your device in the case, zip it up, and toss it into your bag without having to worry about bumps and scratches, as it is safe and snug thanks to a soft nylon lining. Also, there's a carabiner hook on its back that you can attach to the included neck strap for better portability.

**PHP 295**

## Halo Lucas ▶

### iPad Case

If you're in the market for a new iPad case, the Halo Lucas is a protective case that's made to fit your budget, style, and needs right out of the box. This sleek and simple case is made of textured PU leather for stylishly toting your iPad around. Keeping scratches from your tech investment is an interior lining made of fine suede fabric, while a laser-cut hole on its rear allows for snapshots even with the case on. It also supports horizontal viewing, with the cover transforming as a stand, so you can watch your favorite movies and shows comfortably.

**PHP 595 (iPad Mini)**

**PHP 695 (iPad)**







## **Oppo Mirror 5 ▲** Smartphone

The Mirror 5 is a beautiful piece of tech. It sports a unique diamond-like mirrored surface designed with individually cut glass segments crafted using a sophisticated ultraviolet embossing technique. On top of an attractive façade are advanced internals reinforced with a bi-metallic frame and cross beams for added strength and durability. With a display measuring in at 5 inches, it fits comfortably in the palm of your hand. Meanwhile a 5MP front camera with selfie fill light and an 8MP rear camera for like-worthy selfies and landscape photos are present at your disposal. The Mirror 5 is also equipped with additional smart features such as an ultra-responsive remote control function that allow users to control various household appliances using their phone. Apart from a stunning display and build, the Mirror 5 runs an improved ColorOS 2.1, based on Android 5.1. This newest OS from Oppo makes for a faster, steadier, and overall enhanced user experience. Under the hood are a Qualcomm Snapdragon quad-core 410 64-bit processor, 2GB RAM, 16GB ROM, 3G support, dual SIM slots, and microSD card slot supporting cards up to 128GB. All these are powered by a 2420mAh battery providing you functionality and entertainment wherever you are.

**PHP 9,990**

## Prestigio Multiphone 5454 Duo ▶ Smartphone

If you still haven't gotten on the LTE bandwagon, the Prestigio Multiphone 5454 Duo might just be the phone to make you join the hype. Featuring dual SIM slots with an LTE-enabled primary SIM, the 5454 Duo ensures you blazing-fast connections for anything from social media to app downloads. This Android phone runs a quad-core 1.2GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 processor paired with 1GB RAM so it won't be left hanging just when your data connection's really picking up. Additionally, you can fill up its 8GB flash storage with photos and videos from the 8MP and 2MP shooters. All the prestige happens on a 4.5-inch IPS Gorilla Glass 3-protected screen powered by a 2000mAh battery.

**PHP 8,799**



## ◀ Prestigio Multiphone 5550 Duo Smartphone

Mobile users need a dependable daily driver that not only delivers a superb multimedia experience, but is also manageable enough to take with them whenever and wherever. The Multiphone 5550 Duo gives you the best of both worlds with its gorgeous 5.5-inch HD IPS screen protected by Gorilla Glass 3 and surprisingly practical 156 x 78.1 x 9.2mm body. The display is powered by a 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor, 1GB RAM, and huge 3000mAh battery so you won't be left wanting in games nor movies. For photography buffs, the 5550 Duo also struts a 13MP rear camera with a Sony IMX179 sensor and a 2MP selfie shooter for filling up its 8GB of expandable memory. It's prestigiously big inside and out.

**PHP 8,999**





## **Euroo Aspirer ▲** Backpack

Probably the most comfortable and practical kind of bag to carry heavy load around in is the backpack. Though backpacks are there to serve just the purpose of carrying your things, we also want to look good lugging them around. This is where the Euroo Aspirer has got your back. Made of Australian felt fabric material, the Aspirer is durable as it is light and comfortable on the back and shoulders. Inside is a thick laptop compartment to protect your device from bumps and rough handling. It also comes built with a multi-layer accessory pocket to help you organize your stuff. On the other hand, an accessories bag is there to keep your laptop peripherals safe and intact. The Aspire is also shock-, scratch-, and damp-proof.



## **◀ Euroo Achiever 2 in 1** Backpack

Made for achievers in the workplace, this 2 in 1 backpack will help you go through each task-filled day with ease. The Achiever has an integrated compartment for laptops up to 15.6 inches in size. For style and comfort, it can be either carried as a backpack or by the handle on the side. As for accessories and stuff that can easily be misplaced, there is a storage compartment meant to keep your paraphernalia secure. Inside, there are dedicated slots that could fit things such as business cards, pens, smartphone, and USB drives. The Achiever is made of Terylene fabric making it light and crease-resistant. It is available in colors black and blue.

## ▼ Samsung Galaxy Note 5 Smartphone

The latest Note device from Samsung has arrived, and it's gorgeous. The Samsung Galaxy Note 5 comes with a massive 5.7-inch screen, large and beautiful, with a pixel density of 518 ppi, behind tough Gorilla Glass 4. Because it's a member of the Note family, you get the S Pen and all the functionality we've come to expect from it. Under the hood, the Note 5 is a beast. It has the beefy Exynos 7420 chipset, and dual quad-core processors running at 1.5 and 2.1GHz respectively. Love to multitask? The Note 5 comes with a whopping 4GB of RAM, and either 32 or 64GB of storage. Games? Sure! All your gaming needs are met by a Mali T760MP8 GPU for smooth graphics and top-tier mobile gaming. Pictures? You've got a 16MP camera for all your snapshots. All in all, this is the best Galaxy Note yet.



## Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+ ▲ Smartphone

The tech circle's going round again, this time bringing the spotlight back on giant phones. Samsung got the memo and gave the original S6 Edge some milk to bring us the bigger and better S6 Edge+. It boasts the company's own octa-core Exynos 7420 chipset, 4GB of RAM, either 32GB or 64GB of storage, 5.7-inch QHD Super AMOLED display, 5MP and 16MP shooters, and huge 3000mAh power pack all under its customized Android 5.1 Lollipop banner. These show stoppers are housed in a sleek metal body with the distinct dual curve for a one of a kind look and feel. With this in tow, Samsung's proving that having both size and functionality beats having just one or the other.



## Asus ZenPad S 8.0 ▶

### Tablet

True to its name, the Asus Zenpad S 8.0 is cool, calm, and collected no matter the challenge thrown at it. Display duties are handled by an 8-inch QXGA IPS screen overlaid with Gorilla Glass 3, driven by an excellent triple tag team of a 2.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3580 processor, PowerVR G6430 GPU, and 4GB RAM. Multimedia and snaps from its 5MP and 2MP cameras are stored in its sizeable 64GB flash storage microSD expandable up to 128GB. It also features on-board DTS-HD Premium Sound and SonicMaster technology for audio bliss. Finally, it has a 3950mAh power pack that will keep it out of the red for the better part of a day. Say it with us now, "Oooohm..."

**PHP 16,995**



## ◀ Samsung Galaxy Tab S2

### Tablet

The Galaxy Tab S2 is Samsung's current flagship tablet device and boy, does it make the original Tab S look like a child's plaything. Their thinnest and lightest tablet to date, the Galaxy Tab S2 packs a Super AMOLED screen with Adaptive Display technology for vibrant visuals whether you're browsing the web, immersing yourself in a movie, or viewing the shots from the 8MP and 2.1MP shooters. For security, it has a fingerprint scanner on the physical home button; and for ease of use, there's the Smart Manager, Multi-tasking, and Pop-up Window features. All these are driven by an octa-core Exynos processor, 3GB RAM and 32GB expandable memory for one of the best Android 5.0 Lollipop experiences around.

**PHP 24,990 (8-inch)  
PHP 29,990 (9.7-inch)**



# Philips Brilliance 275C

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

**The monitor is one of the most important parts of your computer system, not because it affects performance exactly, but it's what you'll be staring at for approximately a full third of your day. With a screen that flickers, submarines, or is generally unpleasant, you're going to be in for lost productivity (or relaxing movie/gaming time), and have a splitting headache to match. Philips, a solid name in the display industry has the 275C, a sleek 27-inch beauty to meet all your viewing needs. Let's see how it stacks up.**



## DESIGN ★★★★★

The 275C is quite a looker. The base is an elegantly curved dome that's a soft white, with a stem extending from the rear, supporting the bulk of the screen. The business end of the 275C is a huge 27-inch panel with wonderfully thin bezels on the sides and top, and just a little chin at the bottom for the Philips brand, an indicator light, and screen controls. The panel itself is a matte affair that significantly cuts glare. The back of the screen is a little busier, with an interesting wave pattern about it, and while the back of the display is host to the ports and connectors, the overall design is kept



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Screen size: 27 inches  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Inputs: MHL, HDMI, HDMI, VGA, Power  
Outputs: 3.5mm Audio  
Screen response time: 5ms  
Power: external, 19V DC, 2.37 Amps

### What's Hot:

- Gorgeous display panel
- Lovely design
- Thin bezels

### What's Not:

- Ambilight can be a little distracting

reasonably thin by employing an external power supply. The foot is a little on the large side, so if you have a narrow desk, you might want to consult a tape measure.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The 275C has a Full HD panel over its 27 inches of real-estate, so you get some very pleasantly sharp images, and a lot of fine detail. The back has an HDMI port, an MHL HDMI port for sending uncompressed media from a mobile phone, and a VGA connector for the old-schoolers among us. It also has a headphone jack for audio output, since it doesn't have speakers of its own. There are a few softkeys on the bottom right edge that have some basic functions such as navigating the device menu.

The screen has a response time of 5ms, which is more than fast enough for practically all usage scenarios. The base of the monitor also has the built-in Ambilight feature, which lets the base radiate one of a number of colored lights to better blend with the image onscreen.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The first thing I loved about the monitor was the size. It's massive on its own, and the thin bezels make it seem that much larger. Docking windows on all four corners, as Windows 10 lets you do, is both pleasant and useful on such a large display, if you have the focus to run four tasks concurrently. Even with each application taking up a quarter of the screen, the resolution was still high enough to render each quarter usable.

Gaming on the monitor was fun. Bumping the resolution up high and going for a more comfortable distance away from the screen really makes gaming a lot more comfortable and enjoyable. The fine details come in handy when you're trying to get a bead on a distant bunch of pixels.

Productivity is likewise a lot more fun with all that extra space. You have a lot of room for all the

research, webpages, social media, and cat videos you could ever watch. A thing you might not realize is that you're going to need a little distance between you and your Word document, otherwise, you're going to have neck problems swiveling your head around to catch the corners of the window.

As you may expect, videos are glorious on the 275C. With such narrow edges, there's very little pulling you out of the viewing experience. The headphone jack on the back of the screen feeds audio from the HDMI in port, so you can route your speaker, headphones, or soundbar from the screen, without having to worry about tangled cables. It's a little thing, but actually quite convenient.

The feature I had a bit of an issue with was the Ambilight action going on at the base of the monitor. It's meant to help blend the screen in with the background, but in practice was actually a little distracting. You can change the colors and activity in the display's menu, but that's buried under a few levels, and the softkeys needed to navigate the mess aren't really the easiest to use for that purpose. It can be turned off though, so it doesn't really have to take a hit in that regard.

## VALUE ★★★★★

Based on foreign pricing, the Philips 275C should be hovering around the PHP 20,000 mark. It's actually not bad, given the features, size, and quality of the display. It's a price I'd be willing to fork over.

## BOTTOMLINE

If Philips comes looking for me, please tell them I have taken the monitor and disappeared without a trace.



# Lenovo Vibe Shot



Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

**Mobile technology advances so quickly that, before you know it, the flagship you just bought becomes ancient in a few short months. Let's take cellphone cameras as an example. Before the epic Ellen selfie happened, not much thought was poured into shutters that grace our phones. Yes, there were a few in the market positioned to compete with digital cameras, but manufacturers' focus were on other things. As selfies became a global phenomenon, the focus shifted to creating smartphones that would produce the better picture. Experimenting on this trend, Lenovo launched its newest flagship, the Vibe Shot.**

**DESIGN** ★★★★★☆

The Lenovo Vibe Shot is a fully functional smartphone and a camera all at the same time. That is not a typo. It's a beautifully-formed phone that transforms into a camera when flipped on its back.

Up front, you've got the smartphone usuals: a display, protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3; 8MP front-facing camera; light and proximity sensors; and three capacitive keys at the bottom of the display that light up when the phone's in use, and fades into black when inactive. Around the metal sides of the phone, you can find some interesting controls. On top is an audio jack, and the neatly-arranged speaker grille and micro-USB port at the bottom, right where you would usually find them. On the side are the microSD slot and dual microSIM slot. What you'll find on the other side are the volume rocker, lock/power button, and new features that further cements the Vibe Shot's camera claim: auto/pro toggle switch, and dedicated shutter button.

Flip the phone over and you've got a camera! There's a 16MP OIS camera with a Tricolor LED flash that's laid in a slim chrome strip on the back of the phone along with a Lenovo Vibe emblem. The phone's rear is also protected by a Corning Gorilla Glass 3 with the metal frames slightly extended so that it is a tad sunken to prevent scratches from when you lay it on a surface. If that's not enough, the phone comes with a case, right in the box.

**HARDWARE** ★★★★★☆

On to the hardware! This Lenovo flagship comes with a gorgeous 5-inch display that has a 1080p resolution for generating awe-worthy graphics.

The stars of this flagship are its cameras: a 16MP rear shooter with various technologies such as Tricolor LED flash, BSI sensor, OIS, 6P lens with blue glass filter and sapphire cover; and an 8MP fixed-focus front-facing snapper. It runs Lenovo's Vibe UI which is based on Android Lollipop.

Underneath, the Vibe Shot is operated by a 64-bit Snapdragon 1.7GHz octa-core processor and 3GB of RAM, all powered by a 3000mAh non-removable battery.

**USER EXPERIENCE** ★★★★★☆

Before we get into the main selling point of this device, let's first discuss its many features and processing capabilities. I've always liked how easy it is to customize the phone to your liking and to navigate around the Vibe UI. The design, colors, and placement of buttons are simple and uncomplicated, plus the look of the icons is visually appealing. The phone's response to touch is rather quick, and even with a couple of apps running in the background, it didn't suffer extreme lagging.

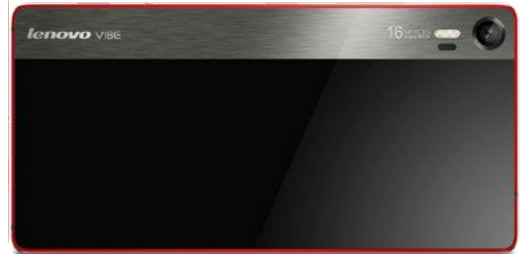
Viewing angles are great, and with its full HD display, you wouldn't want to put it down because of finely detailed images that burst with vivid colors.

Meanwhile, it effortlessly handled some graphics-intensive games we ran on it. This also translates to flawless performance no matter the task you throw at it, which you have its 64-bit octa-core processor to credit.

Now on to the real star of the show, the cameras. I just have to say, the dedicated shutter button and toggle switch are but welcome additions to a market that rids devices of physical controls. The dedicated shutter button will speedily activate the camera app when the display is on, and also use it capture images, just like a point-and-shoot camera. However, it only works when the display is on. When the device is locked or sleeping, pressing it wouldn't activate the camera app.

Once the camera app is open, you can choose between Pro and Auto mode (which is what the toggle on the side is for). The Auto or Smart mode is mainly for snap-happy consumers, those who don't usually bother with settings and such. Point the camera at a subject, press the shutter and you've got a picture. Meanwhile, the Pro mode lends you controls present on dedicated cameras such as manually changing the exposure, ISO level, white balance, shutter speed, among others. This feature is quite great for consumers that are into photography.

Auto mode produced clear, finely-detailed images with enough sharpness and contrast whether in bright or low-light conditions thanks to its Smart feature that detects the surroundings and automatically adjusts the settings for perfect shots. On the other hand,



## SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 142 x 70 x 7.3mm  
Weight: 145g  
Display: 5-inch Full HD IPS, 1080 x 1920 pixels with Corning Gorilla Glass 3  
OS: Android 5.0.2 Lollipop with Lenovo Vibe UI  
Processor: 64-bit Qualcomm Snapdragon 1.7GHz octa-core  
RAM: 3GB  
Storage: 32GB expandable up to 128GB via microSD  
Cameras: 16MP with OIS and 16:9 BSI low light sensor rear and 8MP fixed-focus front camera  
Battery: 3000mAh  
SIM: Dual micro-SIM slots with LTE support  
Colors: Carmine red and graphite grey

## What's Hot:

- Auto and Pro camera modes
- Fine-looking design and solid build

## What's Not:

- Non-user replaceable battery

the Pro mode gives you a corresponding picture according to how you set it up. The Tricolor flash is also a commendable feature as it captures photos just how you see it unlike other phone cameras that produce white-washed images when the flash is put into action.

**VALUE** ★★★★★☆

The Vibe Shot is a flagship, yet Lenovo's focus was on improving the camera that the rest of the phone leaves little to be desired. Take the camera away, and it becomes a typical, run-of-the-mill Lenovo phone, save for some premium features such as its metal frame, stunning display, and efficient processor. However, if you include the price tag of PHP 17,999 in the equation, it becomes a phone that offers true value for your hard-earned buck.

## BOTTOMLINE

Are you a shutterbug in need of a more than capable phone? The Lenovo Vibe Shot might just be for you.

# Sapphire Radeon R7 240

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo



**While the Titans and Furys slug it out in the high-end, enthusiast-grade battlefield, budget graphics cards like the AMD Radeon R7 240 have been sitting in the background, twiddling their proverbial thumbs and hoping that they'll get the spotlight someday. After a looooong time waiting on the bench, the R7 240 wearing the Sapphire uniform is being called up to the GadgetsLab plate. Let's see if this sub-PHP 3,000 card has enough punch to keep up in the big leagues.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Sapphire Radeon R7 240 looks cute, but not in the good way. It's small, petite, and generally likable, but for something that's supposed to push pixels, you'd generally want a burly, mean-looking exterior.

The PCB is a dust-prone matte black with video memory, circuits, and caps all out in the open. The GPU heat sink also sticks out awkwardly against the backdrop because it's just so tiny. Its 20 aluminum fins are a dull gray, while its stylized black top plate is partnered with a black seven-bladed fan.

On the bottom is the PCIe 3.0 x16 finger; on the left hand side are the video outputs for VGA, dual link DVI-D, and HDMI; and...that's it. You really do get what you pay for with this 150 x 97 x 15mm barebones package.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The size of the Sapphire R7 240's PCB, heat sink, and fan, as well as its seemingly simple aesthetics should pretty much tell you just how punchy this card is (spoiler: it will tap out against modern AAA titles).

It is based on the Oland PRO graphics processor, with 320 stream processors on board humming along at a base clock of 730MHz, rocketing to 780MHz in more intensive tasks.

Scouring the market, I found two VRAM variants for the R7 240: one with GDDR3 memory (in 1, 2, and 4GB buffers) and another with 1GB GDDR5. If you're after this card, get the GDDR5 trim as its memory bandwidth is faster than last gen's GDDR3 even if the latter has more GBs. There's also a 128-bit memory bus for the 73.6GB of data the card has to process each second.

The Sapphire Radeon R7 240 is a single slot graphics card so it will be right at home in small-form factor and home theatre PC builds.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

"Low expectations, high happiness" is what I always say and yet again, it stood true with the R7 240.

Instead of wasting my time throwing titles such as *Shadow of Mordor* and *GTA V* at the poor fella, I used years-old games to benchmark the card's performance. I popped it in my home system with an Intel Core i5-4460 clocked at 3.2GHz, 8GB RAM, Windows 8, DirectX 11 API, and 900p monitor, and got down to work.

In games as old as *Batman: Arkham Asylum* and *The Witcher* (the first one) the Sapphire R7 240 managed an impressive 58 and 98fps respectively on max settings with anti-aliasing disabled. The lowest fps dips for the two games even in the most action-packed sequences were at 48 and 73fps so playability wasn't a problem.

Moving on to more epic games such as *Batman: Arkham City* and *The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings*, the card quickly revealed its faults. It averaged 36 and 13fps respectively with most of the graphics settings (except AA) tuned all the way up. The numbers further suffer at the lowest point as they sunk to 19 and 5fps making the games unplayable for all but the most patient user. However, lowering *The Witcher 2*'s graphics setting to medium rendered a better—but not that impressive—average of 36fps.

Meanwhile, benching it on *Unigine Valley*'s extreme preset netted it a score of 431 and an average frame rate of 10.3. Easing the load with the basic preset, it got a slightly better 967 with frames evening out at 23.1.

While you may be quick to snub the R7 240, it would honestly perform better on an AMD APU-based system on Dual Graphics mode. In that optimized config, you'll be able to squeeze more frames out of the card. If you're thinking of getting a prebuilt PC with a Kaveri APU, shell out just a bit more and pair it with an R7 240. It would make your gaming life much better.

## VALUE ★★★★★

Yes, the Sapphire Radeon R7 240 can barely play today's very demanding games, but it's still a low-cost solution for those looking to play MOBAs and



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Stream Processors: 320  
Core Speed: 730MHz  
Boost Clock: 780MHz  
VRAM: 1GB GDDR5  
Memory Speed: 1150MHz  
Memory Bus: 128-bit  
Memory Bandwidth: 73.6GB/s  
Power Requirement: 30W, no PCIe power connector required  
Output: VGA, dual link DVI-D, HDMI  
Dimensions: 150 x 97 x 15mm (L x W x H)

### What's Hot:

- Super affordable
- Small form factor
- AMD Dual Graphics compatible

### What's Not:

- Very dated hardware
- Certainly won't win a beauty pageant

titles of years past. If, like me, you've missed many hits and certified all-time greats within the 2000s to the turn of the decade, you can get the Sapphire R7 240 for as low as PHP 2,700 and get yourself back up to speed.

## BOTTOMLINE

The master race ivory tower doesn't need to be expensive.



# Starmobile Knight Vision

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

**In case you haven't noticed, the market is extremely saturated with mobile devices, not the least of which are Android smartphones. In a market that is as saturated as this, manufacturers have to work twice as hard to separate themselves from the rest of the players in the crowded arena. Starmobile is no stranger to stiff competition. The fact that the brand remains one of the most popular ones locally speaks volumes of the devices they put out. One of the newest ones to grace the Starmobile lineup is the Knight Vision, an Android smartphone that has a few pleasantly surprising features.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Knight Vision has the familiar slate design we've grown accustomed to in smartphones of today. Aside from the screen, the front of the Knight Vision has the light sensor, front camera, and speaker grille. The bezels on the phone are a little on the wide side, making the phone look slightly larger than it really is. Once you pick it up though, you'll immediately realize it's not as large as you may have first thought. The Knight Vision has a nice, solid metal frame around its outside edge, adding both a nice look, and extra rigidity to the design. The volume rocker and power button are both located on the right edge of the phone, and are easy to access with either hand. The top of the phone is home to the headphone jack and USB port, and the top left corner is home to a little surprise we'll talk more about later.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Knight Vision comes with a 1.3GHz quad-core processor, the MediaTek MT6582 chipset, and 2GB of RAM, all specs that are quite decent for the price point. It also has 16GB of ROM, expandable to 64GB via a microSD card slot, and a Mali 400 GPU for gaming purposes. Connectivity options are GSM and HSPA+ connectivity, as well as the usual Bluetooth, GPS, and Wi-Fi options.

Pictures can be taken with either the 13MP main camera, the 8MP front snapper (both Sony IMX Exmor affairs, with OIS), and viewed on the large 5.5-inch, 267ppi screen, which is incidentally also really great for watching TV.

Yes. TV.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Before moving on to other features, first and foremost, this is a smartphone, and as a smartphone, it performs well. It runs Android 4.4 KitKat, which is a version behind, but shouldn't really matter to the average user. The Knight Vision responds quickly to commands, even switching to a really full app drawer, which is something other phones have a little trouble with even now. The

screen is wide, and the bezels do add a little extra width to that, and coupled with just how thin the phone is front to back, you might want to take care not to drop the device when you're moving about. There are also no permanent softkeys on the bottom bezel, so the phone locates the home, back, and multitasking buttons right on the screen.

While the screen's resolution might seem a little low on paper, you won't really see jagged edges when looking right at the phone, and text comes out plenty sharp. The camera is likewise sharp, with a surprising amount of detail. You won't be making billboards from the snaps you take with it, but as a tool to catch interesting moments of your day, it is more than sufficient.

Now, on to the TV. The Knight Vision isn't just another phone with an analog receiver. This baby does TV in digital. This means much better quality, a consistent picture, and easy peasy video recording. I tried the feature out several times over the course of the review, and I was actually quite impressed. The feed was usually rock solid, and offered a great viewing experience. Outdoors, the speakers might need a little help, but otherwise, the experience was actually quite pleasant. Local TV is migrating to digital in a few years anyway, so there will only be more and more content from here. For now, I could totally see myself catching some important sporting event or news program on the Knight Vision while waiting for a ride, or when I'm in line.

Overall, I was quite pleased with the Knight Vision. What might seem like a gimmick-y feature to some, is actually a solid and compelling reason to grab one, and it's not a bad phone to boot!

## VALUE ★★★★★

At less than PHP 10,000, and with a main feature not really available on other devices today, it offers a unique value proposition. That on its own might not be a great way to justify buying the device, but add this to the fact that it's actually quite an OK smartphone, and the Knight Vision becomes a device worth looking into.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 5.54 x 2.85 x 0.39 inches  
Weight: 144g  
Connectivity: GSM / CDMA / HSPA / LTE, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi  
Screen: 5.2 inches, Gorilla Glass 3, AMOLED  
OS: Android 5.1 Lollipop (via update.)  
Processor: 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582  
RAM: 1GB  
Storage: 16GB expandable

### What's Hot:

- Digital TV
- Slim and light
- Dual SIM connectivity

### What's Not:

- Design is a little bland

## BOTTOMLINE

Want something a little different, but still performs solidly? This might be it.



# Mi Band

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David

**Xiaomi is known to sell a wide array of well-designed products at affordable prices. We recently got our hands on their activity tracker, and here is what we thought.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

Coherent. Coherent is one word that best describes Xiaomi and the host of products in its roster. From the appearance of their devices, their user interface, and to the design of their packaging, their look is clean, modern, and very simple. Their products are often called the Apple equivalent for Android—only with a much affordable price tag.

Consistent with Xiaomi's design aesthetic, the Mi Band is a sleek, no-frills device that can be worn as a bracelet, or as a pendant using an optional neck accessory. The oblong sensor has a polycarbonate body with a brushed aluminum face, and three tiny LED indicator lights that can be programmed to glow blue, orange, green, or red. The device is devoid of any buttons, but has two gold poles on one side that connect to the charging holster. This holster is paired with a slim matte band that comes in black, yellow, pink, blue, green, and orange. For the fashionista, it's easy to stack with your other arm baubles. For the alpha males, even the colored ones are sporty enough to wear without looking girly.

Measuring a mere 36 (L) x 14 (W) x 9mm (T) and weighing almost nothing at 5 grams, it's actually something you don't need to take off, ever. Except every 30 days or so when you need to recharge its battery.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

Inside the sensor is a military-grade accelerometer by ADI, a premium-quality Bluetooth chip by Dialog, and an ultra-thin 8mm 41mAh lithium polymer (LiPo) battery. The sensor is rated IP67, which means it is water and dust resistant up to 1 meter and for up to 30 minutes, so showering or hand washing won't be a problem.

The sensor is paired with a hypoallergenic band that is made of a durable Dow Corning TPSiV material. It measures 225mm in length, and the size of the band is adjustable from 157 to 205mm, to suit a wide range of wrist sizes.

Aside from the sensor and the band, box contents include the charging holster as well as the instruction manuals.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The Mi Fit app is a 42MB free application that you can download from the Play Store or the App Store.

I downloaded a version for both iOS and Android and installation and pairing was seamless, although the band can only pair with one device at a time.

If you don't have one yet, the app asks you to register for a Mi account upon first use. This is so that your data is stored should you wish to change smartphones you paired the band with. It will also ask for basic info like your gender, birthday, height, and weight, and will ask you to set a goal in terms of number of steps per day. The device stores all your information, and automatically syncs every time you open the Mi Fit app on your phone.

Using an accelerometer, the device tracks your movement throughout the day, differentiating walks from runs, and indicating how long you did the activity for, as well as the distance you travelled. It also gives you an idea how many calories you burned with each activity. Using its indicator lights, it tells you how far along you are from your goal—one light means you are one third along, two lights means you are two-thirds along, and three lights with matching vibration of the bracelet means you've reached your target.

Because I am not as active as (my doctor and) I would like to be, the most useful feature for me was the sleep monitor. After wearing the Mi Band for several days, I have found out that I am most rested when I sleep at least six hours at night, with about four hours of deep sleep. Anything less than that, I need pretty strong coffee to get me going in the morning. Unlike other bands where you need to indicate your sleep times, sleep mode is activated automatically when it detects inactivity.

The Mi Band also has a smart vibration alarm that gently wakes you up from (what is presumed to be) deep sleep thirty minutes before the set time. This is supposed to rouse you gently and naturally, so that when the alarm finally goes up, you are ready for the day, with no need to hit the snooze button.

Another smart use of its Bluetooth function is the smart unlock function that allows you to unlock your linked device when you are wearing the Mi Band. I paired the band with a phone running on Android 5.0 Lollipop and it was a hit and miss thing for me. This feature is supposed to be exclusive to Mi 3 and Mi 4 phones.

Other features include the Find Band alert that makes the band vibrate and light up, and the call alert.

## VALUE ★★★★★

Although it's not locally available yet, the Mi Band is priced at SG 19 or just a little over PHP 600.

Compared to other fitness trackers in the market, this fitness band is one of the most affordable wearables in the market today. It may not have all the bells and whistles that other fitness trackers have, but with its functionality and ticket price, it certainly rates high in the bang for your buck category.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions (sensor): 14 x 19 x 36 mm  
Weight: 5g  
Length (bracelet): 255mm  
Battery: 41mAh, LiPo  
Compatibility: iOS, Android  
Waterproof rating: IP67  
Connectivity: Bluetooth 4.0

### What's Hot:

- Affordable
- Easy to use
- Long battery life

### What's Not:

- Limited stocks even where available
- No official local presence

## BOTTOMLINE

Simple, affordable, and quite useful. For those who want to track their activities, but not ready to go hardcore.



# Mi 4i

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara



**Xiaomi, one of the most successful smartphone manufacturers in the market today, has taken the world by storm. They've brought excellent performance to users at a price point far lower than other competing brands. They hope to do the same thing again with their latest flagship device, the Mi 4i.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Mi 4i keeps the same simple form factor as its predecessor. The whole device is a nice combination of curves and straight edges, with little in terms of frills. The Mi 4i has a non-removable back case with a camera, the flash, and a speaker grille at the bottom. In case you forget the brand, Mi is kind enough to remind you, with a nice, shiny, silver "Mi" emblem on the bottom quarter of the device. The front is perfectly plain, with the speaker and the front camera up top, as well as vanishing softkeys just below the screen. Looking at the device head-on, you can just see the silver of the volume rocker and power button on the right edge. The "Mi" emblem is present here as well, right on the top left corner.

The phone is surprisingly light—any lighter and it would feel like a toy. As it stands though, it's quite pleasant, and will sit happily in your pocket all day without you even noticing. The Mi 4i is also a reasonably sized 5-incher. Only the smallest hands will really have any problem with it, though the combination of thinness, light weight, and slick back might mean a few close calls between you and gravity, so be careful. Should you lose your grip, and have the phone tumble from your hands, it does have some tough Corning glass on it, so it will probably come out fine.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

Mi has taken a different approach with the Mi 4i: they put in some high-mid tier specs in, and dropped the price to baffling levels. The Mi 4i is no slouch though. It has 1.7GHz and 1.0GHz quad-core processors, for a total of eight computing cores, 2GB of RAM, and 16GB of storage. The Snapdragon 615 chipset might not be at the top of the heap in the hardware department, but you still do get octa-core performance, and LTE connectivity, with one of the two SIM slots able to connect to an LTE network at a time. It also has the Adreno 405 GPU, so you get a capable gaming phone to boot.

The screen is a perfectly adequate 5 inches diagonally, and is protected by Corning glass. The

primary camera is a 13-megapixel snapper, with a 5-megapixel backup for video calls, and the inevitable selfie. The Mi 4i has a large 3120mAh battery, and fast charging, which allows the battery to get to 40-percent in an hour.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

To be absolutely honest, I have to admit that I was worried about the direction Mi was going with the Mi 4i. Dropping the high-spec, value-for-money model that had served them very well in the past seemed like a risky move. When the phone arrived at the office, I cracked the box open, and booted up for the first time, expecting to have to be generous with my expectations. The OS and home screen loaded quickly, which was a great start. I then popped out the SIM card tray (which requires a bit of effort if you have anything but the included tool), and loaded both my work and personal SIM cards.

Once everything was loaded completely, the Mi 4i was just as zippy and responsive as any of the other flagship devices we've used recently. Sure, there was the occasional folder that was a little slow to open, or app that took a split-second longer to launch, but this was the exception rather than the rule. I'm pretty sure it has as much to do with MIUI as it does with the hardware.

All the nice touches from the previous versions of MIUI are still present: a beefed-up messaging app, easy camera access from the lock screen, HDR, extra dialer functions, and a lot of security and data access controls.

Daily use was completely painless. Dual SIM use, plus LTE for one line meant that I didn't have to run a hotspot on my phone, or even carry a spare phone at all. Apart from the generally smooth performance, I was impressed by the battery life. Even with two SIMs live, and mobile data, it gave me no reason to think it wasn't going to last a day. I usually carry around a 10000mAh powerbank, but that has mostly remained at home since I started testing the Mi 4i.

The screen, advertised by the company as having superb readability in sunlight, performed as advertised. I usually keep my screen pretty dim, and

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 5.44 x 2.74 x 0.31in  
Weight: 130g  
Screen: 5.0 inches, 1080 x 1920 pixels, 441ppi, Corning scratch-resistant glass  
OS: MIUI V6, based on Android 5.0.2 Lollipop  
Processor: Quad-core 1.7 GHz Cortex-A53 and quad-core 1.0GHz Cortex-A53  
RAM: 2GB  
Storage: 16GB, non-expandable  
Connectivity: GSM, HSDPA, LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Battery: 3120mAh, non-removable

## What's Hot:

- That price tag is insane
- Better performance than you might think
- Actually does have an all-day battery

## What's Not:

- Will occasionally take a moment loading an app



though the auto brightness on the Mi 4i did bump that up a little bit, I have to agree that the screen performs very well outdoors. The camera was also similarly impressive. While it's no DSLR, it focuses fast, snaps quickly, and is more than adequate for your daily snapshots.

There are a few downsides to the Mi 4i though. The battery is internal, so there's no replacing that should it start to turn, and you don't get expandable memory, so you'll have to rely a little heavily on the cloud for storage.

## VALUE ★★★★★

Here's where the Mi 4i really nails it though: price. At less than PHP 10,000, this is a really hard deal to beat. Sure, it has a few shortcomings—really, all smartphones do—but at this price point, we're more than willing to give it a little slack. Really. How did they manage to make it so affordable?

## BOTTOMLINE

Two SIMS, LTE, a huge battery, and a simple, understated body. There's very little else you could ask for in a phone.



# Mobile Devices and the Internet of Things

Words by Ren Alcantara

**Of all the connected devices in the world today, possibly the best-known and best-understood by the public at large is the personal mobile device. Whether it's your laptop, tablet, hybrid, wearable, or smartphone, there are few things the average person understands and connects with like these. There's little mystery to each, we use them constantly, and they enrich our lives immensely.**

From analog, to GSM, to third, and now fourth generation networks, a lot has changed with our phones. A lot of tech has also taken firm root in the mobile ecosystem. Short-range tech like Bluetooth, and to a lesser degree, NFC have practically made their way to even lower-end devices, and will probably continue to do so until they're just as common as colored screens. There are currently few surprises in the smartphone world, and that's okay. You probably don't need us to tell you what we've got going at the moment either, since you use it on a daily basis. We're here to tell you about something far more abstract: the Internet of Things (IoT).

Before anything else, I think this has to be said: The Internet of Things isn't just things with Internet connectivity. You're mostly thinking of the "smart device" trend. It's that, sure, but much more too. It's not really a device, or even a kind of device. It's a phenomenon.

## Cutting out the middleman

Right now, internet-connected machines are dependent on human intervention. You aren't likely to see or feel it, but inevitably, somewhere down the line, a person has to be inserted into the mix to make things happen. There was a time when practically all the data floating around the Internet was created by a person, whether by hitting a button, typing, or snapping a photo. More and more though, things are collecting information (and by extension, creating data) all on their own.

While warm bodies behind a screen, manning a control panel can be comforting, it's not always the best way to go. Human beings have limited attention spans, we get tired, and we demand silly things like fair wages, vacation leaves, and healthcare. It's all so inefficient. For example, would you hire a person whose only job was to monitor just how well-stocked your fridge is? Please feel free to disregard this question if you're an eccentric billionaire. Menial tasks, and some critical tasks that require unwavering attention do great with automation, and that's one of the things we're looking at with the Internet of Things.

## All connected, all the time

You may have some problems imagining just how this trend will be useful to you, or how it will impact your life. It's mostly going to work quietly, in the background, though in a lot of really cool ways. At the heart of it, the IoT phenomenon lets devices talk to each other, and share information that lets them do their jobs better, or help you do your job better. It's not really a specific task they will do that makes it awesome. It's the fact that



all these little, everyday objects can talk to each other that makes it really great.

As an example, think about your car. Now think about all the cars on all the roads in your city. Imagine how much information they can gather as a group: traffic, road congestion, locations, accident info. If all that information can be gathered, shared, and processed between the cars, they could come up with a real-time, changing optimal route to feed the driver, with no human intervention.

Taking it to another level, the cars, once they are “aware” and unwavering in their awareness, could potentially eliminate accidents due to user error. While similar technology is available now, it generally relies on sensors on the car, which works autonomously from the others on the road. All the cars working together offers a much higher level of redundancy, so there are more ways to catch itself if things go wrong.

There are a lot of great ways it’ll change shipping as well. With containers, and at some point, individual packages online, you can track packages in real-time, without having to rely on a person or machine having to scan a barcode at each transit point. As things are done now, human error can still sidetrack a package, causing delays. Once the package is self-aware, not only will you be able to track it, it can even let the whole network know if it’s going the wrong way. Airlines, shipping, and baggage will never be as hassle-free as that.

#### The security question

There are a lot of concerns with the IoT becoming reality. Some examples can be quite scary, such as hackers causing car accidents, or a little more mundane, like those same hackers burning your toast. The reality of the matter is that if you get sloppy, a lot can go wrong. The scope of connected devices means a lot can be fiddled with, but manufacturers are working on ways to make it safer. Regardless of what they do though, a lot still remains in the hands of the user. Usernames and passwords must still be made secure, and don’t be careless with them. It’s a concern, sure, but not something that will outweigh the benefits of connecting all the little things in our lives.

There’s not a whole lot we can really do but wait for the IoT to materialize and start making our lives awesome. We do expect it’s going to change our lives quietly but profoundly, and at the heart of it, it really is all about connectivity.





# Home Connectivity

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

**If you've already seen the 2004 movie *Stepford Wives*, you probably have a good idea by now of what homes of the future would look like—minus the fancy vintage outfits and wives-turned-into-robots.**

Imagine today's typical home crammed with elements from the aforementioned cult classic, such as a talking security system that locks the whole house down when ordered to do so, a refrigerator that tells you when to stock up, a toilet system that examines waste to monitor your health, and a smart home system, controlled through touch screen panels spread across the house, that networks all the appliances together. These days, our homes are to some extent already connected. It may not look as robotic or Jetsons-like as you'd think, but the future is already upon us.

Though we are still in the age where the populace still hasn't fully embraced the concept of a connected home, the drive towards the creation of efficient, intelligent abodes accelerates with each passing day. The home is evolving little by little. What started with little smart technologies incorporated into our handsets has spurred an ecosystem of little to big devices that can communicate with each other through the

Internet. You have an internet connection at home, yes? You also probably have a few Bluetooth-, NFC-, and internet-capable devices, besides your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, sitting around parts of your house. You may not see it now, but that's already a small stride towards home automation. The only thing that's missing is integration; a system that will tie all these together.

Looking ahead, a connected home promises an easier life. Effortless in a way that when you get out of bed in the morning, sensors fixed within the walls of your room will alert the coffee maker in the kitchen you're on your way. While making your way to the kitchen, lights will automatically turn on and off as you pass. As you drink your coffee, your shower system will gradually heat up for a refreshing bath. Ready to leave the house, you step out the front door, take out your smartphone, shut all the appliances off, and lock down the house via a home app. And, while you are away, you can start the laundry, or monitor your kids who just arrived from school remotely through your phone. The possibilities stretch as far as the mind can envision.

It makes sense in a way that it doesn't only make repetitive tasks trouble-free, putting it all under the control of a single system makes keeping track of the whole lot uncomplicated. Most probably,



apart from the Internet or hub that connects all the appliances, there will be an app or platform where you can monitor the energy consumed by each device. Though new tech installations may add a couple of zeros to the bill, you can efficiently manage energy use and drive electricity costs down with just the flick of a finger.

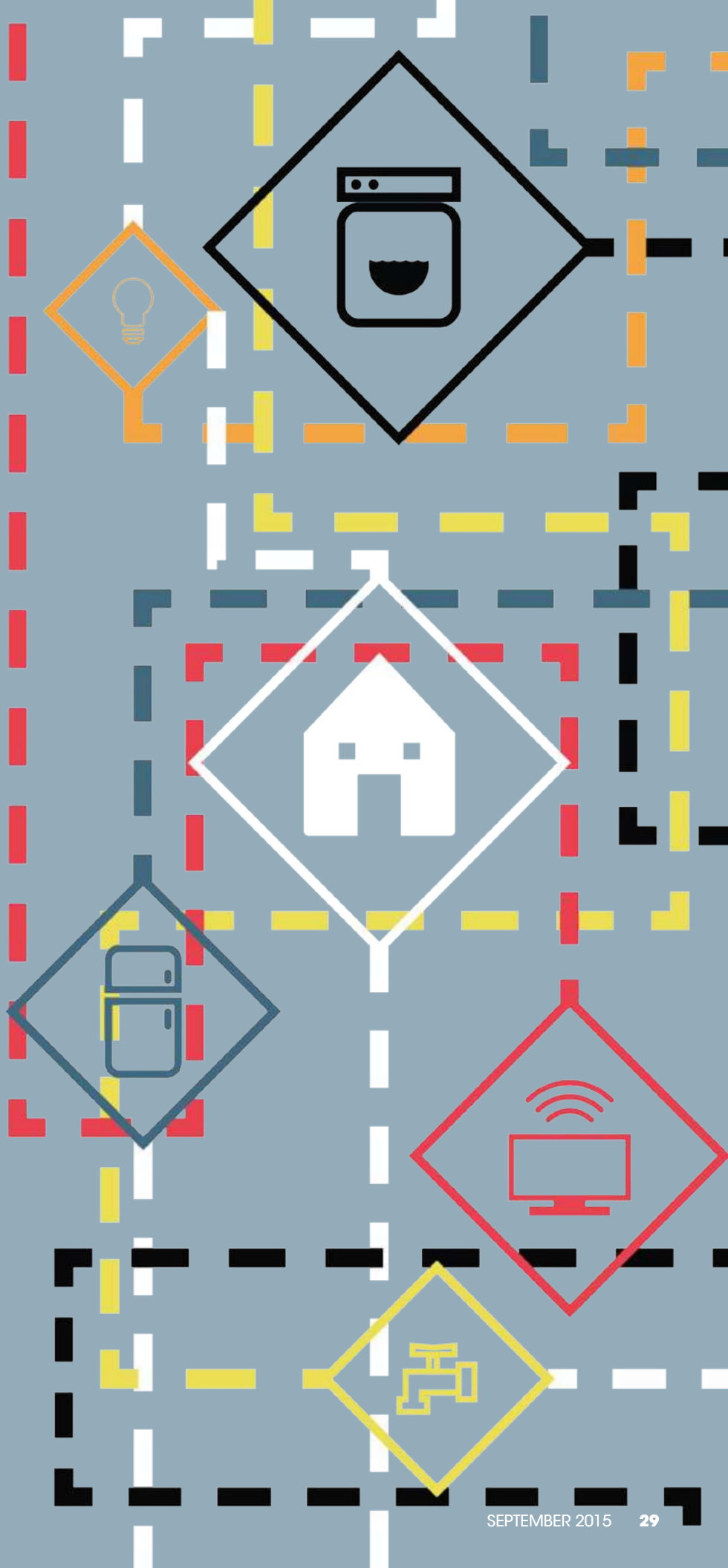
In sci-fi movies, we've learned that tech innovations are either a hit or a miss. There are times you can depend on it but there are also several occasions it becomes the foil. They say you can never put too much trust on things that operate on chips and gears, but tech has in a way provided solutions no man can ever offer. Security is one area where tech fills in for human constraints. Motion sensors, burglar alarms, and remote cameras and monitoring systems can give you a peaceful sleep at night. It'll also keep you and your investments safe by recognizing which persons are allowed to come in and keep those who aren't registered to the system out. If these installations don't make you feel safe, we don't know what will.

How will all these look when integrated in my home? The way it will turn out depends on the home owner, but basically the concept is that you can't even tell it's all connected. Everything will still look the same, save for future innovations in terms of design, but the functionalities will be at levels more akin to J.A.R.V.I.S. To put it simply, the home would react to you but you wouldn't be able to tell.

What's there to look forward to in the Internet of Things (IoT) market in the coming years? For kitchen-ware, companies have projected surfaces you can prepare meals, send messages, video conference, and get social media alerts on just like your smartphone display. These surfaces are also smart enough to turn into induction cookers when say you place a pot on top of them. You'll also be ecstatic to know that refrigerators of the kitchen years from now will flash its content on a display and suggest what dishes you could make with what's in it. Refrigerators will also be intelligent enough to inform you that you tipped a water container over when you closed it and flash it on the TV where you are currently watching a show. How all these will work in concert leaves the mind something to ponder on, but head to page 26 for a more in-depth explanation of IoT.

The benefits you can get from a connected home is, beyond doubt, inviting. However, the cost of automating a home is expensive and will force you to an all-cracker diet for until your finances recuperate. The current value propositions of a connected home are still obscure at present. Yes, the advantages of having a connected abode can quite be beguiling visually, but that is not yet enough to achieve mainstream market penetration.

The path toward this concept is laden with many complications but companies are showing no signs of slowing down. The home of the future is turning out to be a tangible reality more than just being a fancy gimmick.





# Car Connectivity

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

**With the increasing pervasiveness of the Internet in our daily lives (internet-enabled refrigerator, anyone?), it was only a matter of time before the smart wave crashed down on our vehicles. While there was a time when the best consumers could get was an in-car entertainment system with A/V ports for anything from cassette tapes to game consoles, getting anything less than a properly-executed hands-free telephony system now seems like a total waste of cash.**

Now more than ever, vehicle connectivity is almost as important as, if not totally equal to, raw performance. Horsepower has to be matched with features that won't leave anyone wanting, whether they be a casual or hardcore techie. In fact, according to a 2013 research commissioned by B2B cloud company, Covisint, customers are putting further premium to in-car technology that enhances their connected lifestyle.

The paradigm that once had the vehicle at the focal point of the motoring experience has shifted. Covisint noted that due to how other devices outside the automotive industry have set the standard for a digital and always connected lifestyle, customers have high expectations of the connected vehicle; an expectation that current mid- and top-trim model year nameplates have been trying to meet.

The most obvious development in car connectivity has to do with the in-car entertainment—and in some models, infotainment—system. Besides being able to tap into AM and FM bands, most also feature Bluetooth connectivity allowing you to stream multimedia from your phone, read messages, take calls, as well as access optimized version of apps such as *Pandora*, *Aha Radio*, *iTunes Radio*,

*Apple Messages* and *Maps*, *Google Maps*, and *Spotify*. These systems also run on their own operating system, either factory installed by the OEM or through third-party solutions like Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Backing up the infotainment system is the GPS navigator that, like the former, can be pre-installed or be aftermarket. Pre-installed ones usually require a trip to the manufacturer once a year for map updates, while those off the shelf can be updated by plugging them into a computer.

These standard features have a whole lot more in store for future drivers and passengers; things that will inevitably help cut down on time fiddling with knobs, as well as shorten time on the road. The most exciting ones definitely seem to be embedded connectivity and enhanced route planning. Though it still hasn't found its way into the mainstream Philippine market, cars with built-in internet connectivity using telecommunications have been popping up overseas. In this always-connected mode, the vehicle functions as an internet hotspot, enabling access to online services without the need for a phone.

Couple this with smarter GPS systems—those that can learn new routes and AT shift points based

on your driving habits, calendar schedule, traffic and accident feeds, as well as feedback from other drivers—and you have a car that will take you from point A to point B quickly and painlessly.

Outside of current-gen vehicle technology, the one thing that we all have to look out for is the Internet of Cars (IoC). Mention this and “self-driving cars” will surely be one of the top-of-mind phrases people will think of. Most car companies are already in on the hype, developing their own prototypes and facilitating tests on both private and public roads. The process has been impressively rapid, and experts predict that there will be around 10-million fully autonomous vehicles on global roads by 2020.

The baby steps towards that future have been likewise impressive. Cars that automatically park themselves are almost completely fool-proof; valet-like cars that drive themselves to you from a parking slot are seeing progress; and the idea of cars that can literally talk to each other is slogging its way through legislation.

The backbone of these feats—GPS, radar, internet connectivity, and historical topographic data—opens up new digital opportunities for safety, business, and everything in between. On the

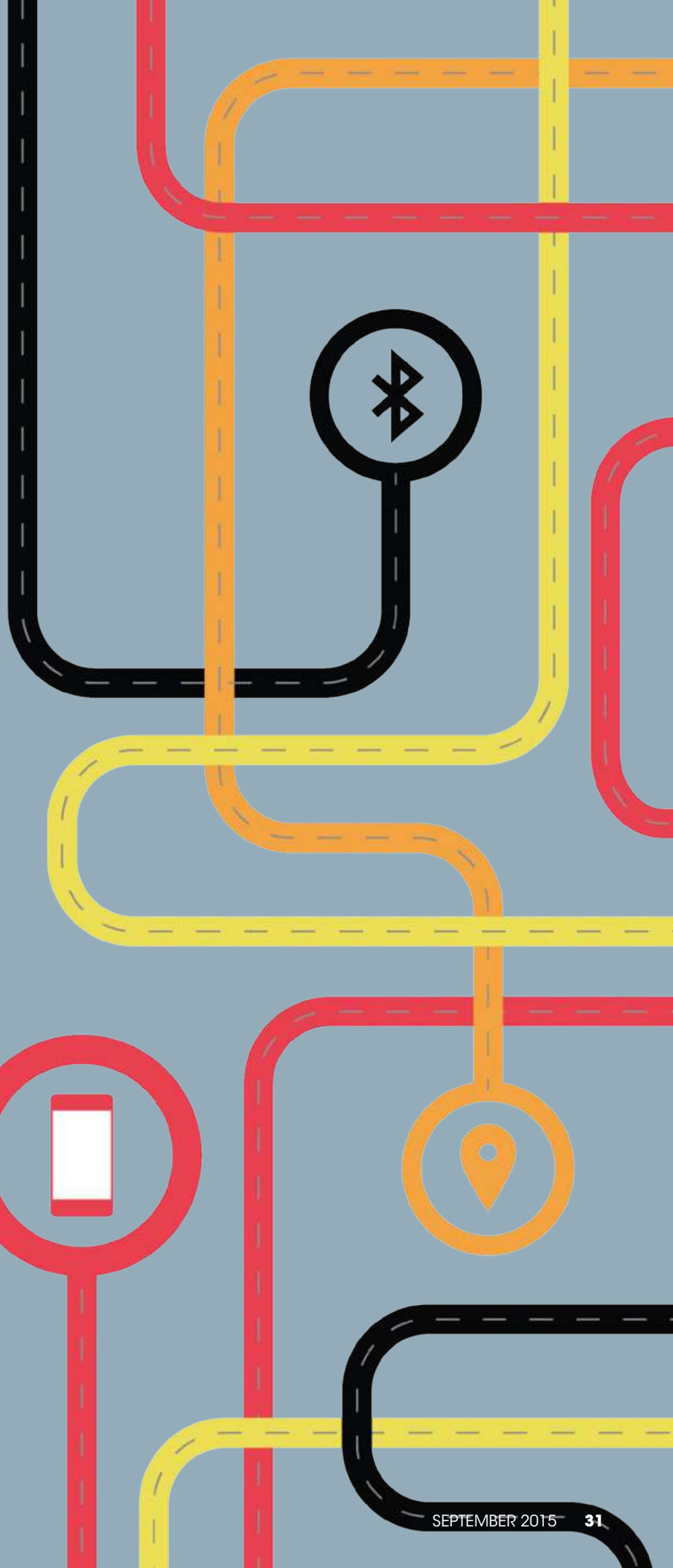


business side of things, analysts are predicting a personal assistant-like relationship between buyer and car, where any queries can be answered a la *Siri*, *Cortana*, and *Google Now*. Got the munchies while on the road? Ask your car where the nearest fast-food place is, and it'll automatically give you a list, complete with routing, traffic details, as well as pricing. See some tires you like? Your car will scan them, then scour the Internet for pricing and compatibility. Need to pee? It'll point you to the nearest tree. Or gas station. Your call. (Please choose to pee at a gas station. -Ed.)

While some people welcome driverless cars, most will probably agree that driving is best done with a person at the helm. But not everybody can drive properly on the road, and you won't be able to tell if the vehicle ahead of you is being piloted by a thinking man or a donkey. Luckily, some of today's smarter cars are able to track your driving habits in relation to the date, time of day, traffic condition, and other environmental variables. The car then gives you a score that'll be accessible to yourself, the manufacturer, mechanics, and in the future, other cars. That way, you can shun lead footed road ragers while avoiding being one yourself.

Auto braking, collision warning, and collision avoidance systems, are also some safety features enabled on high-end IoC cars. These are coupled with other smart innovations such as side-sensing radars that automatically tightens seatbelts, flashes hazard lights, and keeps the brakes applied in case of an imminent crash. First responders will also be immediately notified in case of any accidents, further shaving rescue time and hopefully, cutting down on deaths caused by vehicular mishaps.

Yes, the bells and whistles are great, but how will the connected car fit in the overall IoT phenomenon? Well, hopefully it'll be no holds barred given that they're connected to everything. Maybe tomorrow, you'll be able to turn into your street and have your lights, air conditioning, and TV on by the time you enter the driveway. Maybe you can have your packages delivered to you on the road by a drone. Maybe you can take that half-day drive to Northern Luzon without even touching the steering wheel. Far-fetched? Perhaps. Achievable? You bet.



# Toll collection made more convenient with EasyDrive RFID

Electronic toll collection is nothing new to us. It's been around for years, and despite the occasional glitches, these prepaid transponders have made traversing our expressways more bearable.

Words and Photo by Mika Fernandez-David



Designated lanes, shorter queues, speedier barrier-clearing times, and most importantly, not having to fumble for exact change are just some of the selling points of these electronic tags. But even with all these advantages, it makes you wonder how come the majority of the vehicles that ply our toll ways still don't have these devices.

Sad to say, it is all about economics. On average, motorists have to shell out around PHP 2,000 per device: PHP 1,700 for the transponder, and PHP 300 initial load. Plus, if you live in the south, and work in the north (and can't relocate), you will need two devices because they are run by two separate entities and interoperability isn't a thing yet. To save on costs, (although not advised) these devices can actually be transferred from one vehicle to another, but you will need to remember to always have the device with you, and that's quite a hassle,

Enter EasyDrive, the first RFID sticker tag in the country to be used in electronic toll collection. First introduced at the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) in July 2014, EasyDrive does away with expensive and bulky transponders, and makes use of a more affordable RFID sticker tag that can be mounted on either the interior windshield of a vehicle, or on its headlamp.

Each EasyDrive kit costs PHP 400 inclusive of the sticker pack, its processing fee, and an initial load of PHP 200. Each packet contains the sticker, instructions on how and where to install the sticker, a PVC card with a magnetic strip with your account details, as well as little stickers with your account number and tag serial number to aid you when you reload.

In case you missed it, RFID stands for Radio-Frequency Identification. Using electromagnetic fields, it is used to transfer data wirelessly from a transponder and a receiver that exchanges a digital handshake every time you pass thru an enabled tollbooth.

On a recent drive to Hamilo Coast via the CAVITEX, we were lucky enough to chat with Jay Calma who heads operations and business development over at EasyTrip Services Corporation (ESC), the company that powers EasyDrive. If the company name rings a bell, it's because they are also the guys behind EasyTrip, the current system being used at the NLEX. We initially had our doubts about the durability of the headlight-mounted stick-on, but Calma assured us that if you allow the sticker to cure for 24 hours after installation, it will last just as long as its battery-operated counterparts. Calma also shared that the stickers

are manufactured by the 3M company in the US, and that one of its security features is that it self destructs once it is detached from its original location. Another convenient feature is that multiple tags can be linked to one main account, and you can opt for the prepaid option or link it to your credit card for worry-free payment.

To get your own EasyDrive RFID, you need to visit the CAVITEX Drive-thru Customer Service Centers (Southbound and Northbound) before the Parañaque/Coastal Toll Plaza or the EasyTrip Satellite Office located at Caltex Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City. Aside from these locations, topping-up is also available via reloading stations all over Luzon including LBC, Bayad Centers, TouchPay, Smart Money, selected SM Business Centers, Bancnet, and thru major credit cards.

The EasyDrive RFID is currently available for Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 vehicles traversing the CAVITEX, but will hopefully rollout at the NLEX by the end of the year.

EasyTrip Services Corporation (ESC), the brainchild of French company EGIS Projects, powers EasyDrive. ESC is part of the Metro Pacific Group of Companies and was incorporated in 2007. For more details, please visit [www.easytrip.ph](http://www.easytrip.ph) or call (02) 555 7575.



A GLOBAL SUZUKI SCOOTER

# SUZUKI

SUZUKI Fi FUEL INJECTION  
**Address**  
EXPLORE THE CITY WITH THE SUZUKI ADDRESS



Way of Life!



# Living in the Moment

At what age are you considered to be in your prime? This is the golden phase in our lives when we look and perform our best. This is when we are supposed to be bursting with passion, possess assets to utilize, and have a mind-set to do just as we please, to do what makes us happy. We have our whole lives ahead of us and we feel wonderful. Everyone says something different, but there isn't really a definitive age for your prime. Don't waste time waiting for it to come to you. Seize every moment. Living in the now is the only way to enjoy life to the fullest.

Young and beautiful Jo Luzarraga and Iago Faria are ready to show you how to have a good time with the head-turning scooter, the Suzuki Address.

Art Direction by BENEDICT ASAL  
Photography by DOOKIE DUCAY  
Make up by PATRICIA AQUINO  
Hair by MONG AMADO  
Styling by LENG DESUASIDO  
and EMMAN LUZ  
Models IAGO FARIA  
of Women's Folio Model Management  
JO LUZARRAGA of Lux Talent Management

*Address*







On top: Blue top and shoes by MANGO, Jacket and jogger pants by MEMO | On Jo: Blue top, white shorts, and shoes by MANGO



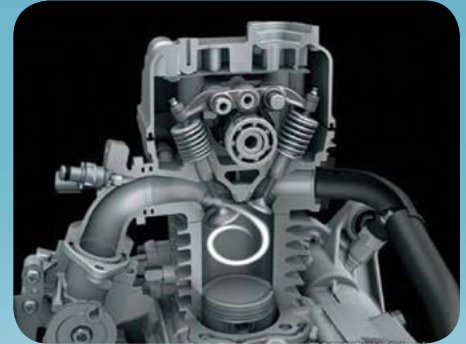
# *The world is your* **Address**

Fresh. Stylish. Remarkably good looking. These were just some of the adjectives that came to our minds when we first saw the Suzuki Address. A global scooter model, it's one you'll be proud to be seen with and one that you'll be looking forward to ride.



On Jo: Striped shirt and red pants by MANGO | On Iago: Jacket, shirt, pants, and shoes by MANGO





**POWERFUL 113CC ENGINE  
WITH LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION**



**CENTRALIZED  
LOCKING SYSTEM**  
To avoid theft and  
for convenient  
access to underseat  
Utility Box.



**REAR BRAKE  
LOCK SYSTEM**  
Can be locked in  
engaged position.  
Useful for stabilizing  
the vehicle when  
parking with the side  
stand.



**20.6L UTILITY BOX**  
20.6L Utility box can  
accommodate a full  
face helmet.



# Match made in heaven

Interviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

Rarely do you find people that immediately look good together, but as Jo Luzarraga and Iago Faria prove, rare doesn't mean impossible. Seriously. Look at these two and you'll likely think of an up and coming teen romcom that's been hyped to death—one we in *Gadgets* would gladly queue up for.

Young as she is, Jo Luzarraga obviously has a bright future ahead of her. She's overflowing with talent and is a complete natural in front of the camera as proven by her escapades aboard the Suzuki Address.

Though she's never worked with vehicles before, much less a motorcycle, she nailed every shot like a pro who's been at it for the better part of 17 years.

Yes, at a ripe 17 years of age, Jo's already making a name for herself in the world of modelling while at the same time juggling the pressures of being a student at one of the country's finest private research institutions. She's also not taking up some far-flung course that has no connection whatsoever to her passion; no, she's studying how to handle the world of media and entertainment. And with already a couple of print ads and AVPs under her belt, she's surely bound for stardom and acclaim in her chosen field.

Matching Jo's stunning good looks was the 22-year-old Brazilian Iago Faria. Having spent only three weeks in the country during the time of our shoot, Iago has already managed to nail some high-profile projects in the country, including a weekly stint at Takata PH. Even before that though, he's already worked with some of the world's largest brands such as Hugo Boss, Jimmy Choo, Astrid Andersen, and Zara when he was in China and Thailand. Now, he can add this Suzuki Address shoot to his extensive résumé.

Iago told us that he used to ride motorcycles in Bangkok due to the city's sheer vehicle density, so it came as no surprise that he was able to tame this month's fierce steed. Every pose was on point and with all the minor nuances that distinguished true riders from pretenders. We're pretty confident that if we asked him to take the bike to Manila's busy streets, he'd rev it up in agreement.

Clearly, these two have a lot going for them, and have success' address pinpointed on their career maps.







**THE NEW**  
**Address**  
**DEBUT!**  
**A GLOBAL SUZUKI SCOOTER**

**INTRODUCTORY  
PROMO  
FREE**

**SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION**  
**POWERFUL 113CC ENGINE  
AT LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION**



**SEP**  
SUZUKI ECO PERFORMANCE



**20L UTILITY BOX**  
**20L UTILITY BOX  
CAN ACCOMMODATE  
A FULL FACE HELMET**



**REAR BRAKE LOCK  
SYSTEM**



**CENTRALIZED  
LOCKING SYSTEM**



Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

Promo runs from August 20 - December 31, 2015  
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360 series of 2015





# Suzuki

## Triple Threat

Words by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Benedict Asal

**Suzuki Philippines has once again raised the bar in the local motorcycle scene as it launched their Triple Threat—the much-awaited Address, Gixxer, and AX4, to join their roster of bikes in the market. Held at the Blue Leaf Filipinas and attended by media enthusiasts, the newly launched global models got the crowd excited with their elevated standards of durability, efficiency, and competitive pricing.**

**“We have been waiting for this moment to finally showcase these new bikes to you—bikes that are global, stylish, powerful, and fuel-efficient that you will surely love,” said Suzuki Philippines president Hiroshi Suzuki during his welcome remarks.**







# Address the global scooter

The Suzuki Address is the brand's fun and stylish global scooter that is also available in Europe, Oceania, and Asia Pacific. Powerful and fuel-efficient, it is packed with features suited for the active lifestyle of today's Filipino youth.

The Suzuki Address is powered by a 13cc 4-stroke 1-cylinder SOHC engine that produces 6.9kW @ 8000rpm, and maximum torque of 8.7Nm @ 6500rpm. It is built with Suzuki Eco Performance

coupled with the Suzuki Fuel Injection System to achieve the best of both worlds: maximum power and optimum fuel efficiency. It features a rear break-lock system that can be locked in engaged position and is useful when stabilizing the bike for parking using the side stand. It is also equipped with a centralized locking system with seat opener function to avoid theft, as well as to access its huge 20.6L under seat compartment that is big enough to fit a full-face helmet. The Suzuki

Address boasts of an easy-to-read instrument panel, as well as a 5.2L fuel tank for longer uninterrupted rides.

The Suzuki Address is available in titan black (special color), metallic medium blue/titan black, celebration red/titan black, and the MotoGP limited edition blue.

It is priced at PHP 66,900.



# Gixxer

brace for an exxhilarating ride



Powerful, bold, and aggressive are the words that best describe Suzuki's newest street sports bike that has finally landed our shores. The Suzuki Gixxer is the brand's much-awaited street bike that has already won fourteen awards internationally, including a Best Bike title. The Gixxer is a full-packed motorcycle that is well built and well-designed, yet comes with an attractive price point.

Inspired by Suzuki's big bike range, the Gixxer is a real looker with its light diamond shape chassis that was designed by engineers with experience in developing the Hayabusa and the GSX-R1000. Powered by Suzuki Eco Performance Technology, the Gixxer promises unparalleled performance with its 155cc 4-stroke single cylinder air-cooled SOHC engine delivering 10.4kW @ 8000rpm and maximum torque of 14Nm @ 6000rpm. The engine is mated with a mechanical 5-speed transmission.

The Gixxer comes with a 3-piece construction fuel tank strategically placed to prevent overall cover replacement when damaged. Its sleek LED rear combination lamp promotes better visibility while consuming less power and being more durable. Its Y-shaped, 3-spoke mag wheels help achieve good balance, and its dual type exhaust muffler improves its exhaust efficiency. Its eye-catching design not only provides functional beauty, but also excellent maneuverability, structural strength, high rigidity, as well as a comfortable riding posture. It also boasts of a full digital instrument panel with all the necessary functions packed into a full digital meter, and comes with an ignition key inspired by the Suzuki GSX-R.

Priced at PHP 89,900, it is available in blue, red, and black.



 **SUZUKI**

*THE NEW*  
**GSX-S150**  
*DEBUT!*



BRACE FOR AN  
**EXX** HILARATING  
RIDE

**POWERFUL 155cc SUZUKI ENGINE**

with Suzuki Eco Performance to deliver a smooth running condition at low fuel consumption.

**SEP**  
SUZUKI ECO PERFORMANCE



**DUAL-TYPE EXHAUST MUFFLER**

Dual-outlet muffler (first in Suzuki's small motorcycles) is designed for high exhaust efficiency



**MONO-SHOCK SUSPENSION**

Mono-shock rear suspension for better riding comfort and handling stability.



**FULL-DIGITAL INSTRUMENT PANEL**

Flat panel design looks like a smartphone. Engine RPM indicator is the same Hayabusa and GSX-R1000 in specification.





# AX4

## the return of a legend

Answering the growing demand of the country's business model motorcycles, Suzuki has brought back the legendary Suzuki X-4, now with advanced features for the needs of the Filipino masses.

Rebranded as the Suzuki AX4 that stands for Advanced Suzuki X-4, this was carefully designed to be the best partner for business, with power, durability, and reliability, without compromising comfort. Powered by a 150cc spark ignition four-stroke engine, the AX4 was designed to withstand any kind of road conditions. Its 5-speed transmission with engine balance reduces vibrations for better riding comfort even at high speeds. A heavy-duty single cradle frame and square pipe swingarm ensure comfortable riding conditions.

For better value for money, the AX4 was made more durable and low maintenance with a more responsive Mikuni VM-type carburetor, and a fuel cock with built-in filter that ensures the cleanliness of the gas being supplied to the carb. The AX4 is safe to drive with a clutch switch starter that prevents unwanted bike movement, and its battery-operated headlight that promotes better visibility and aids in fuel-efficiency. The rear carrier is now longer for more passenger or baggage space, and comes with a TODA tool kit (for sidecars) that is composed of a lower rear shock attachment, sidecar bracket front attachment, and kick starter.

The AX4 is priced at PHP 68,900 and is available in black, yellow, and red.

"Suzuki motorcycles come to life through countless hours of testing, uncompromising quality control by the engineers and test riders to satisfy market needs. These bikes are equipped with Suzuki Eco Performance which is a cutting-edge culmination of Suzuki engine technologies coupled with the Suzuki Fuel Injection System to achieve the best of both worlds—maximum power and optimum fuel efficiency—a technology which we call SEP FI," said Yukio Yano, director for manufacturing and engineering, Suzuki Philippines.

The Address, Gixxer, and AX4 are all assembled at Suzuki's motorcycle manufacturing plant located in the Carmelray Industrial Park in Canlubang, Laguna.







# Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015



**Smash 115.**



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SUZUKI HELMET

SPALDING  
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# **RAIDER R150**

## **Moto GP Edition DEBUT**

**FREE!** Moto GP POLO SHIRT  
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THE NEW RAIDER R150



**PLUS!**  
**RAIDER R150  
LANYARD**







# Volkswagen Polo Hatchback A/T

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara | Photos by Chris Noel Hidalgo

## What's Hot:

- Wonderful to drive
- Great fuel economy
- It's a VW

## What's Not:

- Suspension is a little harsh

**I, along with I think three generations of my family before me, learned to drive on a 1969 VW Beetle. It was light, forgiving, and surprisingly zippy. That car is no longer with us, but the memory of it remains with me fondly. Because of this, I've always had a soft spot for the VW brand, so when I was told I'd be reviewing the Polo Hatch, I was excited. Did it live up to everything I had hoped for? Read on and find out for yourself.**

## DESIGN ★★★★★

It's a handsome little hatch. While not quite as aggressively styled as some of the other vehicles on the road right now, it's got really clean, uncluttered lines that the perfectionist in me really appreciates. It's a very clean, neat-looking car that is every bit as practical as the Beetle I once knew and loved.

The understated front grille gives way to the very prominent VW badge, proudly displaying the decades of heritage the marque has. Distinct, angular headlamps make the car stand out nicely when placed alongside rows of more common

brands, and slightly flared side panels give the illusion of girth in a car that is otherwise very pleasantly narrow. It comes with 15-inch alloy wheels that might not be flashy, but go well with the overall look of the car.

The inside of the Polo hatch is simply appointed, with a surprising splash of creature comforts here and there. The steering wheel, the single most important interface between the driver and the car, is a three-spoke design that feels great, and has conveniently located controls for the vehicle's Bluetooth hands-free system, and information system. For the price, you also get all-power

windows, locks, and wing mirror adjustment.

The gauge cluster is large and easy to read, and has a center screen that shows a variety of info, depending on what you call up with the steering wheel controls.

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Polo Hatch has a beefy 1.6L engine capable of a respectable 103hp @ 5250rpm, and 153 Nm @ 3750rpm. It's mated to a six-speed automatic transmission, but allows you to take over shifting duties should the need for a little more grunt arise. It's rated to go at a top speed of 184km/h, and has a range (on paper) of 692 km on a full tank of 45L.





The Polo Hatch is all of 3,970mm long, 1,682mm wide, and 1,462mm tall. It has a 2,470mm wheelbase, and turns a reasonably tight 10.8m circle, making it pretty agile on the road. You also get front disc and rear drum brakes, ABS, and front airbags for driver and passenger safety.

### USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

I have looked at the numbers, and I've found that I drive just under 50 kilometers to and from work (including side trips) every day. It's not a joke. I was actually really happy to pick up the Polo hatch for a test drive, as it promised a change of

pace from the usual sedan we would drive to the office and back, and there's just something about a zippy little hatch that I've always liked.

The Polo is no exception. The inside is comfortably roomy, there was plenty of storage space in the back, and it was very agile, making it a nice ride in the traffic and narrow roads here in the metro. The engine is reasonably responsive, and a little tap on the accelerator gets it going with a sense of urgency, with just the slightest delay as the engine spools up to its happy range. The transmission shifts smoothly through the gears, with no stuttering or shift shock, and does so responsively even when you take over shifting.

Steering is easy, and with enough feedback so you don't feel like you're playing a driving simulation. Controls for the Polo are all easy to reach, though done in the European style. If you haven't driven a German car recently, you're going to want to familiarize yourself with the location of the lights and the direction of some of the toggles before heading out.

Entertainment is handled by a simple but feature-rich audio system that has a large, easy to read display panel giving you access to the multiple sources (including Bluetooth and external storage) the car has to offer. For those in need of a little extra room, you get 60:40 split-folding rear seats, which is great if you need the vehicle to double as a mover on occasion.

Driving the Polo Hatch was a lot of fun. The spritely engine accelerated quickly, the steering was responsive, and the car was extremely easy to flick in and out of both parking spaces and gaps in the road. The suspension is a little harsh, which might be uncomfortable if your daily route involved rough patches of asphalt, but I didn't think that was a problem save for a few moments when a particularly harsh bump jolted me out of the fun I was having behind the wheel.

While the vehicle itself looks tame, it's actually quite a machine. What you might think, thanks to its understated looks, all go out the window once you start to let it stretch its legs. Some clear road and a bit of convincing really gets this car going, and you can't help but feel a smile cross your face.

It's also quite fuel-efficient. Even when I was getting a little careless with the tachometer, and shifting late in Manual mode, the Polo still gave me about 12km/l. The way I was driving, I was expecting much, much worse.

### VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

For about PHP 950,000, the Polo Hatch has a lot of stiff competition out there, all of which have compelling reasons for earning your investment. The thing is, none of those really carry the lineage, history, and reliability of VW. It really has a reputation that precedes itself, and the Polo Hatch upholds that.



#### BOTTOMLINE :

Looking for your first car? This might be it.





# 2015 Mazda CX-5 SKYACTIV 2.5L AWD Sport

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

**Mazda has always been known to produce driver's cars—meaning cars meant to be driven, not chauffeured. We drove the refreshed CX-5 SKYACTIV 2.5L AWD Sport and here's what we thought.**



#### What's Hot:

- Looks good
- Driver's car

#### What's Not:

- Premium pricing

## DESIGN ★★★★★

The Mazda CX-5 is a looker of a compact crossover. Featuring the brand's design language Kodo or Soul of Motion, its strong lines on its hood, sides, and silhouette evoke constant movement even when standing still. The design is both masculine and sporty, yet has this superior air to it that makes it look bigger than it actually is. New to the updated CX-5 is the five-bar grille and fog light bezel design. It is also now equipped with adaptive LED headlamps, LED fog lamps, rear combination lamps, and a machine surfaced new wheel design.

Majority of the interior of the CX-5 is a sporty black with chrome accents. The black leather interior is soft to the touch, and gives it a sporty but posh feel. The upper half is light colored to make the cabin look spacious, and the sunroof which allows more light in, also adds to this illusion.

The driver-centric cockpit is a very nice place to be in. The leather seats are comfortable and the driver's seat is equipped with 8-way power controls that can remember up to 2 settings, while the front passenger gets a 6-way variation. The leather-bound, 3-spoke steering wheel is tilt and telescopic, and is equipped with audio, telephony, and cruise control buttons. The instrument panel is a three-ring number with an analog display tachometer and speedometer, as well as digital gauges.

Both the AWD Sport and FWD Pro variants of the CX-5 are built and shipped from Japan, and are available in crystal white pearl, meteor grey mica, sonic silver, jet black, and soul red (for an additional PHP 16,800).

## HARDWARE ★★★★★

A 2.5-liter SKYACTIV-G in-line 4-cylinder DOHC 16 valve engine with i-STOP powers the CX-5 AWD Sport. The power plant is paired with Mazda's SKYACTIV-DRIVE 6-speed automatic transmission with sport mode. This combination produces a maximum output of 188ps @ 5700rpm, and maximum torque of 250Nm @4000rpm. Recommended fuel is regular unleaded between 91-93 RON, with fuel emissions rated Euro Stage 4.

Up front, it has a proven McPherson strut suspension while at the back, a multi-link beam does its job. Stopping power is courtesy of ventilated discs in front and solid ones at the rear. The AWD Sport ships with 19-inch gun metallic with machined finish aluminum alloy wheels, while the FWD Pro is fitted with 17-inchers with silver finish.

Entertainment for the CX-5 is courtesy of a Bose Audio System with nine speakers (six for the FWD Pro), that you can control with the Command Control knob and switches on the center console.





It is paired with a huge 7-inch touchscreen LCD monitor with MP3/Aux-in/USB/Bluetooth connectivity as well as navigation.

Other amenities include push-to-start ignition, electronic parking brake, electronic dual-zone climate control, as well as two 12-volt power outlets for charging your portable devices.

Safety features include six airbags (front driver and passenger; side driver and front passenger; and two side curtains); ABS with EBD; Dynamic Stability Control; Traction Control; Tire Pressure Monitoring System; iSTOP; Lane Departure Warning; and Adaptive LED Headlamps.

SKYACTIV technology is the blanket brand that Mazda uses for the tech they developed to increase fuel efficiency and engine output. This is composed of SKYACTIV G (engine), SKYACTIV Drive (transmission), SKYACTIV Chassis, and SKYACTIV Body.

## USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The CX-5 is great to drive. It's a roomy 5-seater, with every passenger guaranteed a comfy ride. Driving position is comfortable, and finding proper seating is a breeze with the 8-way power adjusting seats. The high seating position of the compact crossover gives the driver a good lay of the land. However, the high bonnet line takes getting used to because you can't really see what is directly in front of the hood.

Despite feeling massive, the CX-5 is fun to drive. Steering is responsive, and maneuvering in the city is an easy task. On the highway, the CX-5 is stable, and has a commanding presence that can't be bullied by bigger vehicles sharing the road. Both throttle and shifting is responsive, and for even more spirited driving, the sport mode can be engaged with just a flick of a switch. Those who like driving will certainly enjoy going around in the CX-5.

Even for taller and heavier-set passengers, there is generous leg and headroom for comfortable out-of-town trips. Cargo space is substantial, and can be extended further by folding the rear seats 40:20:40 depending on the configuration needed.

Being driver-centric, buttons and knobs are all within reach of the driver, and are logically placed. It is such a hassle to have to search the console for mystery switches that are hidden from plain sight. Access to the infotainment system is intuitive, both for the driver and the passenger.

## VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★

Priced at PHP 1,696,000, the CX-5 is undeniably on the higher spectrum of the compact crossover segment. Although it is similarly priced as some 7-seaters in the market, the reality is that not everyone needs to seat that many passengers. For the CX-5, the product you get and the amenities that come with, is worth the additional dime.

All Mazda vehicles come with the brand's Yojin3 Total Care package which includes a 3-year or 60,000 kilometer PMS (including parts, oil, and labor), 3-year free roadside assistance and concierge serve, and a 3-year or 100,000 kilometer warranty.

## BOTTOMLINE :

**A comfortable, fun-to-drive, and versatile alternative to all the 7-seater SUVs populating the market today.**

# Ride and drive with the Mazda2 SKYACTIV

Photos by Chris Noel Hidalgo



**Over 30 motoring journalists got first crack at the all-new Mazda2 SKYACTIV Sedan and Hatchback as Berjaya Auto Philippines, the exclusive distributor of Mazda vehicles in the country, enjoined the press to experience the nameplate's power and finesse with a two-day drive in the Southern Tagalog region.**

"There's no better way to communicate the above-class quality, design, dynamism and performance of our latest Mazda vehicle than by driving our cars the way they were meant to be driven," said Berjaya Auto Philippines president and CEO Steven Tan.

He adds, "The famed Viaje del Sol route around the provinces south of Manila not only offer a rich cultural and historical backdrop to any road trip but it also provides some of the most scenic and challenging roads that any driver will thoroughly enjoy. The all-new Mazda2 SKYACTIV not only provides the ideal platform for motorists to get from point A to point B, but it also allows them to enjoy getting there."

Launched last April during the 2015 Manila International Auto Show, the all-new Mazda2 with SKYACTIV technology ran over 450-kilometers of scenic straightaways and looping rural roads of Laguna, Quezon, Cavite, and Batangas. The group was divided into three routes, each dedicated to showcasing the refinements done to the fourth-generation vehicle.

The first had a total driving distance of 340 kilometers, spanning Santa Rosa, Sampaloc Lake, Los Baños, Canlubang and Tagaytay. The second was a bit longer at 365 kilometers, taking the group to Liliw, Nagcarlan, Los Baños, Canlubang, and Tagaytay. The third and longest loop saw drivers traversing more than 457 kilometers, starting from Santa Rosa and passing through Ibaan, San Juan, Candelaria, Tayabas, Lucban, Mount Banahaw, Liliw, Nagcarlan, Los Baños, and Tagaytay. All three routes came to a stop at Hamilo Coast in Nasugbu, Batangas before winding back to Mazda's Pasig dealership the next day.

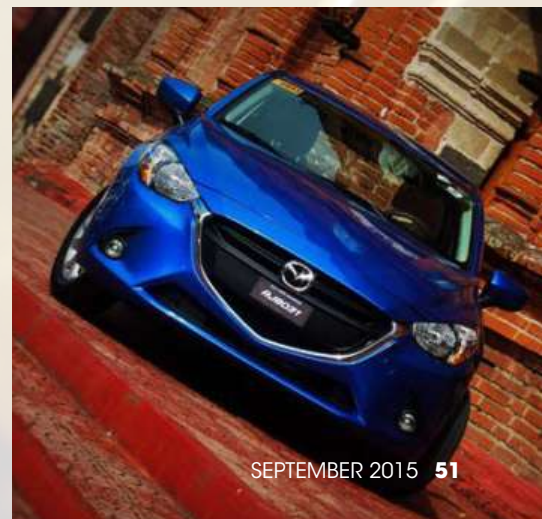
The Mazda2 SKYACTIV is the fourth to boast the brand's Kodo: Soul of Motion design philosophy. It also comes with SKYACTIV chassis, suspension, and drivetrain technologies that enhances fuel economy and on-road performance. Specifically, it is equipped with a SKYACTIV-G in-line 4-cylinder

DOHC 16-valve power plant with a 1,496cc displacement. This engine is capable of 108ps of power @ 6000rpm and 139Nm of torque @ 4000rpm. It's mated to a SKYACTIV-DRIVE-6-SPEED A/T with sport mode gear box. Handling braking duties are ventilated discs at the front and solid discs at the back.

Inside, passengers are treated to a deceptively spacious cabin courtesy of optimized seats and the repositioned A-pillar. The two-zone design sees all driving-related controls within easy reach of the driver. An Active Driving Display; 7-inch rotary-, touch- and voice-enabled display on the center stack; MZD Connect; and an energy-efficient climate control system are just some of the other features accompanying passengers on their trips.

For safety and security, the Mazda2 Sedan and Hatchback boasts airbags for the front passenger and driver, ABS with EBD, Dynamic Stability Control, rear parking sensors, immobilizer, and smart keyless entry system.

Four trims are currently available locally: the Mazda2 SKYACTIV R sedan, the Mazda2 SKYACTIV V sedan and hatchback, and the Mazda2 SKYACTIV S sedan. They are available in all Mazda showrooms throughout the archipelago.







# Driving the all-new Ford Everest in Chiang Rai

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos from Ford Press

**Departing from their usual beach destinations, Ford flew us to Chiang Rai, the largest city in northern Thailand, to test the mettle of the all-new Everest. With its rivers and lush vegetation, it proved to be the perfect setting to test the blue oval's most capable mid-size SUV, which should have started deliveries by the time this article sees print.**

*"The all-new Ford Everest is a hugely versatile vehicle that is equally at home in busy urban traffic and in the most extreme off-road environments the world has to offer," said Trevor Worthington, vice president, product development, Ford Asia Pacific. "Its unique blend of tough capability and exceptional on-road comfort will go far beyond what our customers have come to expect from a seven-seat SUV."*

## Capable on-road and off

Like the previous regional drives we've attended, our day started with a Deep Dive session with designers and engineers based in the different Ford plants in the region. They gave us a crash course on the Everest's design, and a rundown of its capabilities, as well as an idea about what was going to happen throughout the day. After the mandatory safety briefing, they wasted no time in ushering us to our assigned vehicles, and let us loose on the road to put the Everest through its paces. Having been assigned a 4x4 Titanium, the power on tap was abundant. Throttle was responsive, and the handling and ride on the roads and highways of Chiang Rai was solid. The off-road testing site was located in the Canary Natural Resort in the Mae Lao District in the central part of Chiang Rai. A mere 55 kilometers from our hotel, we barely had time to get used to driving on the wrong side of the road before it was time for the mandatory driver change.

## Built tough

The 4x4-only course was a specially designed loop that highlighted the key features of the Everest: its toughness; its being versatile and capable; and its smarts. The testing route was part of a mountain that led to wetlands, with small river crossings and mixed terrain that gave us an idea of what the machine was capable of. The course was made even more challenging by the intermittent rains that the region was experiencing at the time of the drive.

The steep and narrow downhill portion was made less scary with the Hill Descent feature accessible with a press of a button. Steep climbs, river crossings, and soft earth were no match to the easy-to-engage Terrain Management System with four modes—Normal, Snow/Mud/Grass, Sand, and Rock—that alters the vehicle's throttle response, transmission, intelligent four-wheel drive system, and traction control which the marshals guided us to use. On or off-road, the Everest remained sure-footed and capable, helping the driver navigate the difficult terrain with ease and confidence.



*"The Everest offers unmatched capability and versatility to meet our customers' most demanding requirements both on and off the road," said Ian Foston, chief program engineer for the Ford Everest. "Whether you're fording a stream, climbing a sand dune, taking on slippery mud, or climbing over rocks, the Everest can do it all with true 4x4 capability."*

## Smart, safe technologies

Aside from its on and off-road capabilities, the Everest is loaded with other smart technologies including Ford's latest version of their in-car connectivity solution, SYNC2. The improved system takes voice commands to control the entertainment system, climate controls, and connected devices. It comes with an in-dash 8-inch touch screen, as well as a 10-speaker sound system. Other smart technologies include curve control, hill launch assist, active park assist, seven airbags, roll stability control, electronic stability control, blind spot information system with cross traffic alert, as well as a terrain management system for the 4x4 variants.

## Premium, comfortable

Over lunch back at the Canary Resort, we were able to chat with one of Ford's senior interior designers

Max Tran who is based in Melbourne. Tran shared that similar to the timelines of other vehicles in Ford's pipeline, the Everest took around four years to develop, with everyone working under the strictest of NDAs. Their team of designers and engineers keep pushing the limits to determine what is doable and what is not, until they reach the final versions for production. Aside from aesthetics, passenger comfort is high on Ford's priority list, and finding the perfect balance of comfortable seating, ample leg and headroom, baggage capacity, noise levels, amenities, and other factors is the key to successful nameplates.

One of the highlights of the day was seeing a fully functional cut-away version of the Everest for the articulation demonstration. The almost cross section of the vehicle gave us a better idea of how the chassis and other parts worked as one, as well as a better understanding of the vehicle's overall design.

With what we experienced, coupled with the positive internal performance indicators and an encouraging number of reserved units to back them up, regional bosses at Ford have good reason to be optimistic that the Everest will do well in our market. Ford is hopeful that the all-new Everest will be able to regain its lead position in the mid-size SUV segment as when it was first introduced to our market. And with what we've seen and experienced, it really looks like Ford has another winner in their hands.



# A Southern Sojourn with Peugeot

Words by Mika Fernandez David



**What we thought was just going to be a drive to test out Peugeot's urban mini crossover turned out to be a convergence of five brands that share common brand values. The trip highlighted comfort, convenience, ease of use, and premium quality, values that their products share, and make for an enjoyable break respite.**

Southern Sojourn was a fun drive that kicked off from the Total Newport station to Pico de Loro, Hamilo Coast, via the CAVITEX and the Ternate-Nasugbu Road. Originally conceptualized by the CAVITEX Infrastructure Corporation, it was a perfect venue for Peugeot Philippines, SM Hotels and Conventions, EasyDrive, and Total Philippines to join forces and showcase their products.

Peugeot Philippines provided the rides for the whole delegation, featuring their fleet of premium passenger vehicles that the participants took turns driving. While the newly launched 2008 urban mini-crossover was the star of the convoy, the updated entry-level 301 sedan and stately 508 GT were also a treat to drive to the highway, as well as the scenic roads of the Ternate-Nasugbu roads.

CAVITEX and EasyDrive made sure that the drive was seamless by providing RFID sticker tags to ensure a cashless and queue-less trip. Cutting across so many towns, passing through that 14-kilometer expressway shortened our travel time by over an hour.

All the vehicles for the drive were courtesy of Total's premium gasoline and diesel fuels, the Total Excellium. The brand also featured their Peugeot exclusive lubricant Quartz Ineo ECS, and kept the participants well hydrated and fed with snacks from Café Bonjour.

Finally, Pico de Loro served as the destination and temporary home for the Southern Sojourn participants, making available the many amenities for everyone to enjoy. It also served as the venue for the surprise highlight activity that was the Southern Sojourn Cook-Off Challenge that served as a bonding activity for all the participants.

"We wanted the participants of the Southern Sojourn to remember this event as one in which more than just driving activities were done. We wanted them to get to participate in a memorable event that would make the key message of the entire program—which is 'comfort' to stick," reasoned Manila Times motoring section editor and culinary enthusiast Anjo Perez, who served as the Southern Cook-Off Challenge's surprise celebrity chef.



## Eurobrands Distributor, Inc. Introduces Peugeot 2008 Urban Mini-Crossover



Peugeot Philippines has added another nameplate to their growing lineup, the Peugeot 2008. Calling it their urban mini-crossover, the 2008 is Peugeot's take on the growing B-segment SUV market, and given their rich French heritage and positioning, you know that it's going to be more than just your usual.

Measuring just (L) 4,159 x (W) 1,739 x (H) 1,556mm, the 2008 is as compact as it gets, but offers a rich experience by combining the driving characteristics of a hatchback and the muscle of an SUV.

Powered by a 1.6-liter gasoline engine, the Peugeot 2008 delivers 122ps and 160Nm of torque, while providing the best emissions in its class. The power plant is mated to a 4-speed automatic transmission.

The 2008 features Peugeot's latest design cues: fine creases on the hood that highlight the Peugeot emblem; the new floating grille that features the Peugeot branding aside from just the lion emblem; black bumper and body sills that protect the body from scratches; as well as LED daytime running lights.

Inside, the 2008 features Peugeot's i-Cockpit concept that gives the driver a commanding view of the road. It features a compact steering wheel, heads-up dials for easy readability, a high center console and a 7-inch multifunction color touchscreen with USB and Bluetooth connectivity. Its leather seats and panoramic "Cielo" roof also adds a level of sophistication and spaciousness inside the compact cabin.

The introductory price of the Peugeot 2008 is PHP 1,390,000, and is locally available in the 1.6L AT Allure variant in the following colors: artense grey; bianca white; cumulus grey; dakota brown; near black; and virtual blue.



# Toyota launches the best Hilux yet

Words by Ren Alcantara

**At a huge event at Clark last month, Toyota took members of the press to witness the latest iteration of their extremely popular Hilux pickup. The vehicle raises the bar in terms of both performance and comfort, leaving the competition in the literal and figurative dust. The all-new Hilux boasts Toyota's new, aggressive, stylish design that carries the same signature look of other Toyota marques. It also has a wider, more stable stance, accentuated by continuous flow lines, and protruding wheel flares.**

To show off the new pickup, Toyota took media practitioners and dealers on a real off-road drive. We were all ushered into the top of the line 4x4 variant, strapped in with a professional driver at the wheel, and sent on our way. Getting to the course, we were given a glimpse of how the beast behaves on smooth road. We were all impressed by the vehicle's powerful acceleration, rock-steady control and amazing passenger comfort. If we hadn't seen the outside of the vehicle for ourselves, we could all have sworn we were in an oddly high sedan.

Before we got too comfortable though, the real ride began. We were taken to a specially constructed course at an undeveloped part of the Freepor zone. Huge troughs, elephant holes, and steep inclines were all a part of the run. There were some points where the ground was worryingly close to my passenger window, and while all things rational inside me were screaming to bail, the Hilux gave no sign of being in the slightest bit of trouble.

In 4x4 mode, the Hilux easily powered through the mud and loose gravel churned up by the rains of the previous night, as well as the additional difficulty caused by the loosening of the soil from earlier test rides. The cherry on top of the trip was a quick splash along the rocky Sacobia River. This explained the unusual amount of water and sand whenever the pickups returned from the extreme ride. It performed flawlessly, giving us a great feel of the rugged performance, and surprising comfort of the vehicle.



From there, we were given a chance to drive along a small street course in the M/T, 2x4 variant of the Hilux. There were drops, tight turns, loose soil, tires on the ground, and a quick sprint followed by hard breaking, all of which were nothing to the pickup. It was all thoroughly impressive.

The all-new Hilux is powered by either 2.8L diesel, 16-valve DOHC engine that gives up to 450Nm of torque @ 2400rpm for the 4x4 variants, or a 2.4L diesel version that gives 400Nm of torque @ 2000rpm for the 4x2 models. Bumps are smoothed out by the double wishbone front suspension, and leaf spring rear, while stopping is handled by ventilated disc brakes in the front, and drum brakes in the rear.

The Hilux offers superb ground clearance, and a wide, confidence-inspiring wheelbase of 3,085mm for a rock-solid ride. The G Grade Hilux models also come with 17-inch alloy wheels, giving it a sporty appearance, particularly for a pickup its size. It comes with ABS, as well as electronic brakeforce distribution, so you're always in control. This is on top of Active Traction control (for the 4x4 G AT model) that controls both engine output and braking, to prevent over- or under-steer while turning.

Inside, the Hilux looks and feels sedan-like in its levels of comfort. With room for four passengers

plus the driver, you get great front seat comfort with more headroom, and plenty of knee room in the back. New shoulder brims and pronounced seatback edges keep riders planted firmly in their seats should the terrain get a little rough. The top of the line 4x4 G AT even comes with seven standard SRS airbags for complete cabin safety. The G grade also has better entertainment options than ever before, with a large, 6.5-inch capacitive touchscreen with MP3, Bluetooth, and USB compatibility, as well as navigation features built in. The driver is also helped along with a dedicated 4.2-inch, color, multi-information display which gives data on outside temperature, shift range indicators, fuel economy numbers, and the odometer.





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USED VEHICLES



# Hyundai Tucson on the road to Boracay



**Built like an SUV, handles like a sedan, and with the footprint of a subcompact, the Hyundai Tucson is a vehicle that, in the words of the great Muhammad Ali, "floats like a butterfly, stings like a bee." With its decisively powerful revs and comfortable interior, Hyundai bills the all-new Tucson as a dual-purpose car that allows customers to enjoy both urban and rural driving conditions with equal bravado.**



To prove their point, Hyundai Motor Company, through their local arm Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI), organized the Road to Boracay media test drive last August 19 to 21 which saw motoring press from the Philippines and Malaysia cruising the scenic Pan-Philippine Nautical Highway from Roxas City to Caticlan on board the all-new Tucson compact crossover. Three trims were made available during the drive, namely the 2WD Gas, 2WD CRDi, and 4WD CRDi variants.

The all-new Tucson is a definite looker, drawing a ton of glances from bystanders and other motorists along the route. Its exterior carries Hyundai's characteristic Fluidic Sculpture ethos, with sweeping lines and aggressive contours, hexagonal grille, LED head lamps, and extra-wide rear combination lamps combining for an athletic finish.

The interior is unexpectedly roomy, with enough space for a big man such as myself to comfortably move around without bruising my elbows and shins. Ingress and egress were pleasant as well, thanks to the Tucson's optimized seatback angle and distance off the ground.

Meanwhile, the over 150km drive was made more enjoyable by the presence of various creature comforts, including a hands-free entertainment system on the center console, full auto air conditioning system with individual climate controls for the driver and passenger, power windows, auto light control, overhead console with reading lamps and a sunroof switch (for the 4WD model), and ventilated seats and glove box. Coupled with better NVH levels, the Tucson promises passengers maximum comfort.

The drive saw the media traversing long stretches of farmlands, serpentine ascents over hills, and gradual descents down winding roads—all in wet and dry conditions. The Tucson was more than eager to zoom along straightaways, egged on by the slightest step on the accelerator while stopping on a dime with equal ease. Likewise, the Tucson made easy work of the sudden curves and tight turns it had to navigate. Thanks to its McPherson strut type front and multi-link rear suspensions, it handled well and was able to maintain reassuring road grip even when taking corners at speed.

Switching to the driver's side of the car, the Tucson is fitted with a tilt/telescoping steering column and a three spoke steering wheel with media buttons as well as controls for the supervision cluster information panel. A host of smart technologies also enable the driver to drive safer and more efficiently on the road. These include Electronic Stability

Control with 4WD assistance, Blind Spot Detection, Down-Hill Brake and Hill-Start Assist controls, and Front and Rear Parking Assist System.

The all-new Tucson is powered by either a 2.0 MPI gasoline power plant with a maximum output of 157ps @ 6200rpm and 196Nm of torque @ 4000rpm; or a 2.0 CRDi diesel engine outing a maximum 178ps @ 4000rpm and 402Nm of torque @ 1750 to 2750rpm. Both variants are also paired with a 6-speed automatic gearbox and are available in either Euro 2 or Euro 4 certifications.

Pure white, platinum silver, galaxy pearl, pepper gray, ara blue, milk tea, sepia topaz, sedona orange, ruby wine, and phantom black exterior color options are on-hand to go along with the black one-tone, gray two-tone, and beige two-tone interior aesthetics. The all-new Tucson is expected to hit international markets within the year.





## Yamaha helps rebuild two barangays in Ormoc



Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. has reiterated their commitment towards building the Philippines as they turned their focus towards the Yolanda-struck barangays of Montebello and Naghalin in Ormoc City, Leyte.

The effort was preceded by Yamaha's Champions Rebuild Lives campaign headed by MotoGP and Yamaha Rider, Valentino Rossi. He visited the

country and promoted limited edition Yamaha Racing apparel, with the profits used for the benefit of Yolanda survivors.

The campaign garnered more than 2 million pesos in sales and other corporate efforts, prompting Yamaha to create the "Yamaha Beyond Yolanda" rehabilitation program for the two barangays in Ormoc.

Yamaha president Toru Osugi, city mayor Elmer Codilla, and Mark Herras all graced the inauguration of Barangay Montebello's rebuilt facilities which include the perimeter fence, stage area, water tank, and basketball court. To commemorate the event, the VIP's left their handprints on the walls of the new stage. Additionally, Yamaha donated 400 pieces of school bags with supplies to the children of Montebello; and an SZ16 motorcycle to the barangays officials for livelihood use.

Meanwhile, Barangay Naghalin saw the opening of a daycare center, with 100 school bags and supplies distributed for the students in the area.



## Yamaha holds Cebu International Motorshow 2015



Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. showcased some of their best wares for the people of Cebu during the four-day 2015 International Motorshow.

Taking center stage during the expo was the Yamaha Blue Core engine, their top of the line power plant that offers more power while consuming less fuel.

The Blue Core engine is present on the Mio i 125, Mio Soul i 125, and the N-MAX, all of which provide a refreshing combination of power, nimbleness and impressive design aesthetics. Also on hand during the showcase were the YZF-R1, R3, and R15; as well as the Super Tenere, MT-09, T-MAX, and Bolt from their Big Bike portfolio.

Making its presence felt as well was the Yamaha Tricity with its Leaning Multi Wheel technology. Yamaha's non-motorcycle products were also in attendance during the International Motorshow, with marine products such as the Wave Runner and Outboard; and their complete generator lineup available for guests to peruse. Various freebies such as a "Motion of Innovation" lanyard, Yamaha tote bag, and stickers were also given away.

To further entertain visitors, Yamaha enlisted the help of Ballet Manila, Jessy Mendiola, Yeng Constantino, and Robi Domingo. Event goers also had the opportunity to join the Yamaha Club, with their brand new membership card claimable during the same day.



# Honda Philippines launches all-new TMX Supremo



| SPECIFICATIONS                  |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ENGINE TYPE                     | 4 Stroke, OHC, Air Cooled          |
| DISPLACEMENT                    | 149.7 cc                           |
| VALVE & SPRING                  | 37.5 mm x 57.8 mm                  |
| MAXIMUM POWER                   | 7.85 kW (10.7 PS) @ 7,000 rpm      |
| MAXIMUM TORQUE                  | 11.58 Nm (15.18 kgf-m) @ 5,000 rpm |
| TRANSMISSION TYPE               | Manual, 5-Speed Constant Mesh      |
| CLUTCH SYSTEM                   | Wet / Electric                     |
| IGNITION                        | DC-CDI                             |
| STARTING SYSTEM                 | Electric / Kick                    |
| REAR SUSPENSION                 | Swingarm                           |
| WHEEL TYPE                      | Spoke                              |
| TIRE SIZE (FRONT)               | 90/100 - 18 M/C 45P                |
| TIRE SIZE (REAR)                | 140/80 - 18 M/C 55P                |
| BRAKE TYPE (FRONT)              | Mechanical / Leading Shoe          |
| BRAKE TYPE (REAR)               | Mechanical / Leading Shoe          |
| OVERALL LENGTH & WIDTH & HEIGHT | 2,041 mm x 771 mm x 1,071 mm       |
| WHEEL BASE                      | 1,260 mm                           |
| SEAT HEIGHT                     | 782 mm                             |
| GROUND CLEARANCE                | 160 mm                             |
| DRY / CURB WEIGHT               | 121 kg / 129 kg                    |
| MAXIMUM CAPACITY                | 180 Liters                         |
| FUEL SYSTEM                     | Carburetor                         |



CLASSIC FUEL TANK DESIGN



NEW STRIPES DESIGN



DURABLE SIDE COVER



FLAT DUAL SEAT DESIGN



HEADLIGHT SWITCH



5-SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION



PARKING LIGHT



ELECTRIC STARTER



EASY CHOKE CONTROL

Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI) has debuted the second generation TMX Supremo. Dubbed as a premium tricycle workhorse, the model guarantees reliable and powerful performance with its top of the line creature comforts and practical features.



According to Daiki Mihara, president of HPI, the Tricycle Model X-treme has become the standard for tricycle models in the country due to its power, durability, and reliability. Building on these characteristics of its predecessor, the new TMX adds a modern engine design appropriate for new age tricycles.

Elie Salamangkit Jr., HPI product planning and accessory development manager, said that the TMX Supremo now sports a new fuel tank design

complemented by an elegant sticker and new dual flat seats. The side cover has been improved and made stronger through a polypropylene plastic (PP) build with security lock. It is also equipped with durable 3-point factory installed side-car attachment.

The TMX Supremo is powered by a 150cc engine—a fuel-efficient power plant used by Honda globally—paired with a 5-speed transmission.

Some of the new motorcycle's other features include an electric starter; easy to operate choke control at the handle bar; illuminated meter panel with gear and RPM indicator for easy shifting; secured key shutter; integrated handle bar lock; and passing light.

The all-new TMX Supremo will be sold at all Honda dealers for PHP 69,990.



# Rainy day Giveaway!



**XRM 125 Motard  
Wave 110 Alpha Cast  
FREE!**  
Waterproof  
Jacket and Pants

**XRM 125 RS  
FREE!**  
Reflectorized  
Racing Jacket



**BeAT Fi  
FREE!**  
Hoodie Jacket



PROMO PERIOD JULY 16 TO OCTOBER 16, 2015.  
Per DTI-FTEB SPD Permit No. 6492 Series of 2015.



# CTEK: The world's smartest car charger

As vehicles become smarter with more tech-features, an increased level of strain is placed on the battery, which is the heart of the car. Battery charging should be considered an essential part of car maintenance, as vital as checking tire pressures and fluid levels.

Sweden's CTEK brand of automatic battery car chargers pack surprising power in a compact package. The 12V charger comes equipped with an intelligent micro processing unit that utilizes four different modes for charging and an overarching, automated, 8-stage recharging sequence.

Operating the CTEK battery booster is simple, as all you do is connect the clamps to your battery posts and select a mode using the push button controls. You can also just let the automated sequence decide what to do with the battery. The four modes you can choose from are "Normal," "Snowflake," "Supply" and "Recondition." It also has modes to choose from such as Motorcycle, Car, and Boat.

Once a battery has reached its optimum charge levels, a trickle charger will simply send a level of charge for a certain amount of time and

then switch itself off, continually repeating the process until it is removed from the battery. This method of battery charging can potentially overcharge the battery, causing it to dry out, or even start to gas, ultimately killing the battery. However, CTEK's smart chargers move into a pulse maintenance mode once the battery is fully charged. Rather than sending in a charge and estimating the battery's needs, a CTEK charger will stay in constant communication with the battery, reacting and charging only when it is needed.

In pulse maintenance mode, the battery will be allowed to naturally self-discharge to a certain level before being fully charged once again. Not only does this form of battery charging prevent the risk of overcharging but, as the battery is being exercised as it be would during normal use, the lifespan of the battery is extended considerably.

In Normal mode, a battery will go through seven phases of charging beginning with the desulphation phase and ending with the maintenance-charging phase while being charged at 14.4 volts. Snowflake mode is for charging in colder weather, while Supply is used for batteries that must maintain a high capacity at all times, including batteries for golf carts and floor sweepers. Recondition is specifically designed to recover deep discharged and flooded batteries using a constant current charge of 1.5 amps and a maximum voltage level of 15.7 volts.

One of the best features of the CTEK car battery charger is its ability to charge nearly every battery type available. This includes the common acid-lead batteries found in most automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, golf carts, lawn mower and boats, and can also charge deep-cycle, gel-cell and automated glass mat, or AGM batteries.

Because this battery booster automatically analyzes the charge and type of battery you connect it to, you can charge the batteries of your vehicle without worrying about using an incorrect setting or overcharging your battery.

The CTEK's line of car chargers include all the safety features such as insulated, spark-resistant clamps and an automated charging feature that is programmed to prevent overloading your batteries, and the charger will automatically sense when the maximum charge has been delivered, then stop supplying power. The CTEK also features a reverse polarity warning light that turns on if you have placed the clamps on the incorrect battery post.

"While it is not truly equipped to be portable, the small, compact size of the CTEK car charger makes it easy to store and even install permanently in your garage or shop. CTEK's patrons are usually showrooms, car collectors, fleet operators and car/motorbike enthusiasts who want to maximize or prolong their battery life," said Johann Tiu of CTEK Philippines.

For more information, connect with CTEK Philippines through the official Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CTEK.Ph](https://www.facebook.com/CTEK.Ph) or via mobile at 0917-5754812.





# **ALL-NEW MOBILIO**

## **7 SMILES**



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Honda's 7-seater MUV takes you and your family anywhere you want to go with ease and comfort.



**1.5L i-VTEC Engine + CVT**

The i-VTEC engine combined with Continuous Variable Transmission delivers powerful yet fuel efficient performance.



**Flexible Interiors**

The one-touch fold-to-tumble 2nd row allows easy passenger ingress and egress. The flexible 3rd row can accommodate larger trunk space as needed.

**7-seater MUV**  
**for a journey of Smiles.**



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**When it comes to driving in the rain regardless of what vehicle you may drive, it is safer to use tires that provide superior traction even in severe wet driving conditions. To keep you and your family safe on the road when the skies open up to unleash a heavy downpour, Bridgestone brings back the 3+1 Rainy Days Deal for all passenger car and SUV owners. Buy three (3) Potenza, Dueler, Turanza or Ecopia of any size and get the 4th tire of the same type for FREE when you visit any of our authorized dealers from August 1 to October 31, 2015. Because safety begins with Bridgestone.**



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Precise cornering performance | Quickens initial steering response | Increased handling stability



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| Sta. Rosa City                 |  |  | Baling                        |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE CAGAYAN</b>       |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE TAGLOSAN</b>        |  |  |
| Sta. Cruz                      |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE PANGASINAN</b> |  |  | Tuguegarao City                  |  |  | Tadloban City                      |  |  |
|                                |  |  | Dagupan City                  |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE TARLAC</b>        |  |  |                                    |  |  |
| Calamba City                   |  |  |                               |  |  | Tarlac City                      |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE DAVAO</b>           |  |  |
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| <b>BRIDGESTONE MANILA</b>      |  |  | Batangas City                 |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE CEBU</b>          |  |  | Iligan City                        |  |  |
| Brondo                         |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE BULACAN</b>    |  |  | L. J. Alameda St.                |  |  | <b>BRIDGESTONE BUTUAN</b>          |  |  |
|                                |  |  | Guangco                       |  |  | San Nicolas                      |  |  | Butuan City                        |  |  |
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MEDIA PARTNERS: \_\_\_\_\_







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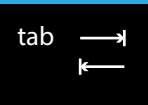

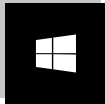
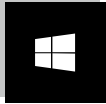




























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# Windows 10 Shortcuts

Words by Ren Alcantara

Windows 10 has well and truly arrived. The rollout has happened smoothly, and if you were running Windows 7 or 8.1 a few months ago, you should be fully on Windows 10 now. One of the keys to maximizing the use of this operating system is to use keyboard shortcuts. Here's a quick list of the ones we now have on Windows 10. Use 'em frequently, and before long, you'll be piloting Windows 10 like an absolute pro.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  +  = <b>Launches Task View</b> |  + <b>P</b> = <b>Opens Projector menu</b>  |
|  + <b>A</b> = <b>Launches Action Center</b>  |  + <b>R</b> = <b>Opens "Run" command</b>   |
|  + <b>C</b> = <b>Wakes Cortana, Speech-enabled</b>   |  + <b>S</b> = <b>Wakes Cortana</b>   |
|  + <b>D</b> = <b>Shows desktop</b>   |  + <b>X</b> = <b>Displays an Advanced Feature menu</b>   |
|  + <b>E</b> = <b>Launches File Explorer</b>  |  +  /  /  /  = <b>Snaps a window to the selected side</b> |
|  + <b>G</b> = <b>Launches the Xbox toolbar for video game recording</b>  |  + <b>ctrl</b> + <b>D</b> = <b>Creates a new virtual desktop</b>   |
|  + <b>H</b> = <b>Launches "Share" feature in applicable Windows 10 apps, or takes and shares a screenshot</b>  |  + <b>ctrl</b> + <b>F4</b> = <b>Closes the active virtual desktop</b>  |
|  + <b>I</b> = <b>Windows 10 Settings shortcut</b>  |  + <b>ctrl</b> +  /  = <b>Switch between virtual desktops</b>  |
|  + <b>K</b> = <b>Launches Connect menu for pairing with wireless devices</b>                                   |  +  +  /  = <b>Moves an app from one monitor to another</b>  |
|  + <b>L</b> = <b>Locks the device</b>  |  +  /  /  = <b>Launches apps pinned on taskbar, starting from the first on the left</b>  |



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**3 YEARS**  
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| Models                  |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Panel size              | 27" (AH-IPS)                    |
| Screen Ratio            | 16:9                            |
| Response Time (Typical) | 5ms                             |
| Recommended Resolution  | 1920x1080                       |
| Contrast Ratio          | 20,000,000:1 (DCR)              |
| Brightness (Typical)    | 250 cd/m <sup>2</sup>           |
| Display Color           | 16.7 Millions                   |
| Viewing Angle (H/V)     | 178/178                         |
| Display Area            | 597.888(H) x 336.312 (V)mm      |
| Pixel Pitch (mm)        | 0.3114                          |
| Scan Frequency (H/V)    | 30-83KHz/ 50-76Hz               |
| Pixel Frequency         | 170MHz                          |
| Inputs/ outputs         | Analog, HDMI1 (MHL), HDMI2 & DP |
| Built-In Speaker        | 2W*2/Audio In*1/Audio out*1     |
| Wall-Mount              | VESA 75x75mm                    |
| Cabinet Color           | Black                           |

vision at Heart

For more information

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## All hail Team Green

### Razer opens first Philippine store

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo | Photos by Emmanuel Luz | Additional Photos from Razer Press



After thousands of Filipino fans made it clear that the country should be next in line for a dedicated Razer hub, Razer co-founder, CEO, and creative director Min-Liang Tan has officially brought the "For Gamers. By Gamers" brand into local shores.

Situated at the fourth level Cyberzone of SM City North EDSA's Annex, the Razer Philippines concept store is only the second official RazerStore in the world—the pioneer being in Taipei. Though initially drawing flak from fans in other countries, Tan commented "Our mantra is 'For Gamers. By Gamers.' We go where the community goes and clearly the community here is a very passionate community."



Asked about whether he expected to be building a Philippine store, Tan answered "In terms of building a store ultimately at some point in time in the Philippines, yes. But we didn't think it'd be the next one. The one thing we did know was we had a lot of very passionate fans in the Philippines, and they're always constantly talking to me on my Facebook page, posting, and tweeting to me."

The local RazerStore allows gamers a hands-on experience with all available products, including their full lineup of keyboards, mice, notebooks, headsets, and other accessories. Because of the store's "Touch, Play, Stay" approach, clients can now get a first-hand feel of the different DeathStalker, BlackWidow, DeathAdder, Firefly, Kraken, and Blade variants. Additionally, the Leviathan soundbar, Nabu, and Forge TV are also on demo; and Razer merchandise such as bags, jackets, and shirts are also available for purchase.

"The RazerStore is a great way for gamers to come by, meet, and talk to each other," said Tan. He also made it clear that this isn't your typical store where you'll be bombarded by jargon and other marketing lingo designed at forcing you to cough up your dough. "We actually encourage people to come over here just to have fun. The odd thing is, for us, you won't find anyone trying to sell anything in this store. That's mainly from my own philosophy. I like to check things out. I don't like being pressured to buy anything. I just like going to a place and test stuff out."

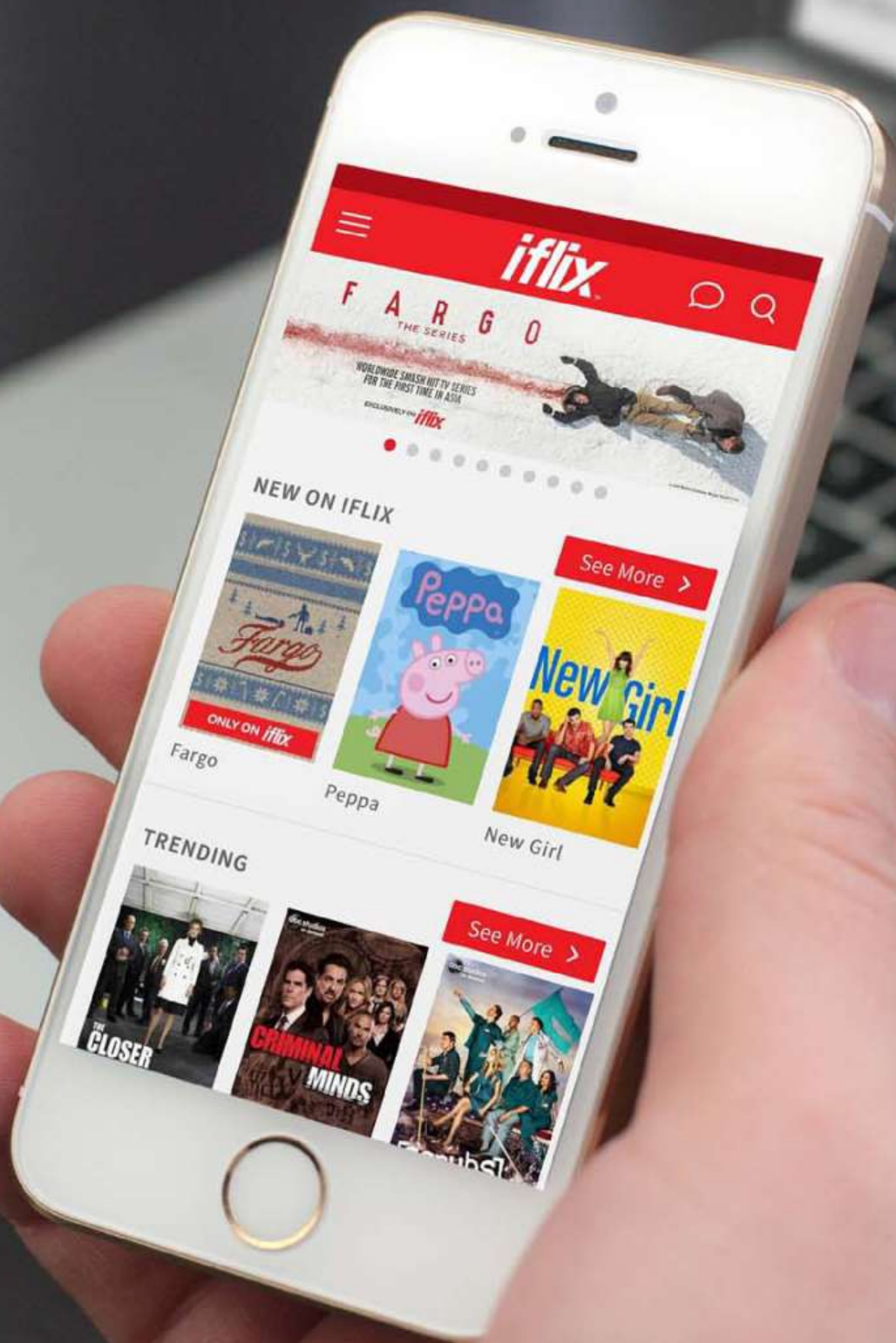


However, their premium price point leaves a lot to be desired for those wanting to join the bandwagon. Tan admits that they could wake up tomorrow and market lower priced but compromised products and they'll be a larger company than they are now. But Razer's not one to come out with unappealing products slapped with the world-renowned triple-headed snake logo.

"We were built for gamers right from the start. We are gamers. We aren't a company that came from some other thing like memory or power supply. For me, we've always been focused on gaming. We will always be here whether the gaming industry does well or it does badly. Why? Because at the end of the day, we just want to do cool things. Razer will rise and fall and grow, but we'll always be focused on the gamers."

Finally, and probably the most important announcement from Min-Liang Tan, is the Razer Toaster. "If that hits 100,000 likes I might actually do it. I'll think about it," Tan said laughing.





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# No Strings Attached: Wireless Audio Devices

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

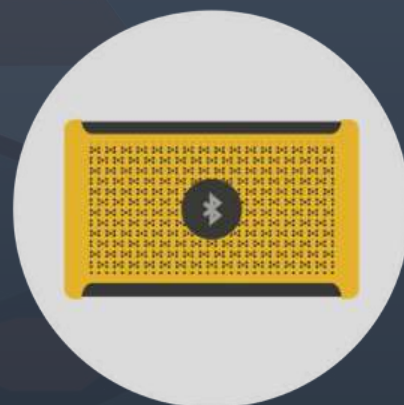


From telephones, cable television, to audio equipment, a few years from now, wired technologies might just be a fleeting memory. Cutting the cord might just be more than a passing trend. While wired earbuds and over-the-ear headphones are still on top of the list when it comes to personal music listening, an expansive flare-up of wireless device choices has invaded the audio market over the years. Today, it's all about audio solutions that are portable and provide quality music on-the-go with no strings attached.

## Headphones/Earbuds

Bluetooth is key to the popularity of wireless music. This technology allows you to pair your device with a Bluetooth-enabled audio device and start streaming music, whenever, wherever. This is also the same technology integrated into portable Bluetooth headphones. The easiest benefit of having wireless headphones/earbuds is to prevent the hassles of cable tangling while it is stowed in your bag or pocket. They are the convenient choice when you are tired of dangling wires that could get in the way while running, driving, working out, or in crowded public transportation.

Should I go for in-ear or over-the-ear headphones? It depends on your preference and how you are going to use it. Earphones and headphones offer a slightly different sound profile from one another. By and large, headphones offer a better sound output, isolation, and power since it completely encloses your ears, and have larger drivers. However, advancements in technology have improved earphones' sound quality greatly. They might be tiny in size but they offer a great deal, plus most wireless earphones available in the market are water- and sweat-resistant. Just try running around with bulky headphones over your ears, minutes into you run and you'll definitely ditch the



set of cans for a more lightweight option. But at the end of the day, the choice still rests upon you.

## Speakers

The best way to bust out your jam is through speaker systems that augment music able to blow your roofs off. But the thing is, you can't carry them around. This is where Bluetooth speakers come in handy.

Bluetooth speakers are usually made with a form factor that's meant to make them portable. There are also Bluetooth speakers in the market that are meant to remain at home. For now, let's tackle the latter.

Bag-friendly speakers are usually powered by built-in rechargeable batteries. This gives them the ability to play powerful music without being plugged into the wall. Another feature the Bluetooth speakers of today offer is durability. Most come with tough, water- and shock-proof form factors so you can carry them around outdoors even in watery locations.

Sound quality is also paramount in Bluetooth speakers. Some don't come with quirks, but one thing's for sure; the audio it produces can blow its competition right out of the water. Big bass, clarity, balanced music, and clean sound are often found in these wireless options. If a portable Bluetooth speaker as small as a jewelry box can fill a room with great sound, just imagine the audio pleasure a bigger speaker can provide.

It has been said that music streamed over Bluetooth produces sound quality lesser than wired audio options. In terms of convenience though, Bluetooth audio options of today are heaps better than what you may have grown accustomed to in the past. They may still not be at par with the sound standard produced by wired audio options, but it's getting there. With enhancements, design, added ruggedness, features such as microphones for taking calls hands-free, you might find yourselves getting rid of the wires in no time.







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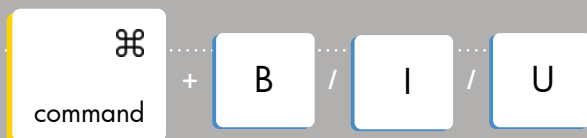
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# 20 Essential (and some obscure) OS X Keyboard Shortcuts

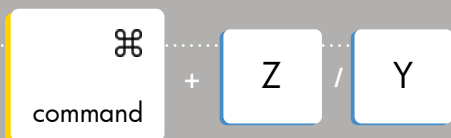
Words by Presy Alba

Knowing which key combination to press can not only make you more productive, it can also help you get things done a lot faster. Master most of these keyboard commands and I guarantee that you will amaze yourself and your colleagues at how much more productive you can be and how fast you can get things done.

## The Basic Command Keys



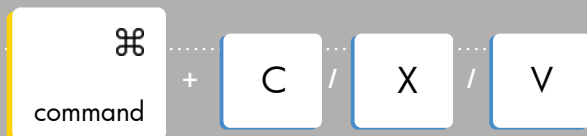
1 Press **Command B**, **Command I**, or **Command U** to change character formatting of selected text to bold, italics, or underline, respectively



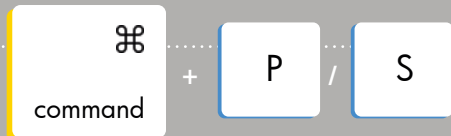
2 Press **Command Z** to undo the last action, and **Command Y** to redo your last action.



3 Press **Command Q** to quit the current application, and **Command W** to close the current window.



4 Press **Command C** to copy, **Command X** to cut, and **Command V** to paste.



5 Press **Command P** to print the selected document, and **Command S** to save it.

## Inserting Special Characters and Saving Screenshots



6 Press **Command Control Spacebar** in succession to open the Character Viewer Window so you could select special characters, math symbols, emojis, etc. You can open this same window by going to Finder> Edit> Emoji & Symbols.



7 Press **Shift Command 3** to save screenshot as file (usually saved to desktop).



8 Press **Shift Command 4** to take a screenshot of selected area and save as file.



9 Press **Shift Control Command 3** to take a screenshot and copy to clipboard.



10 Press **Shift Control Command 4** to take a screenshot of the selected area and copy to clipboard.



## Inserting hard to find symbols



11 Press **Option Shift 2** to insert the Euro Currency symbol — €



12 Press **Option 2** to insert the Trademark symbol — ™



13 Press **Option :** to insert ellipses — ...

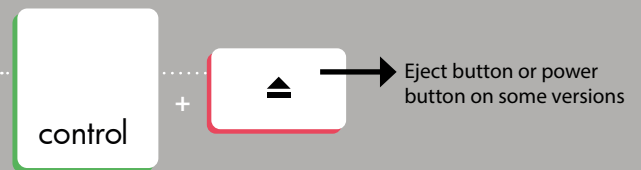


14 Press **Option G** to insert the copyright symbol — ©



15 Press **Option Shift 8** to insert the degree symbol — °

## Shutting down and putting your Mac to Sleep



16 Press **Control ⏏** to show the Restart | Sleep | Shutdown dialog box



17 Press **Shift Control ⏏** to put your Display to sleep



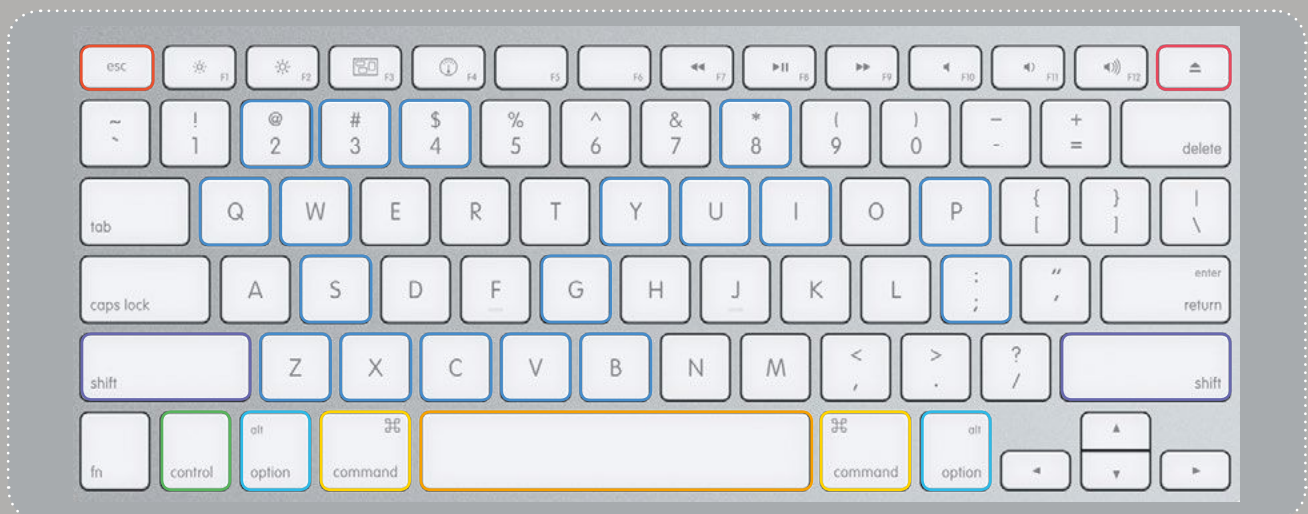
18 Press **Command Option ⏏** to put your computer to sleep



19 Press **Command Control ⏏** to save and quit all open applications then restart your Mac.



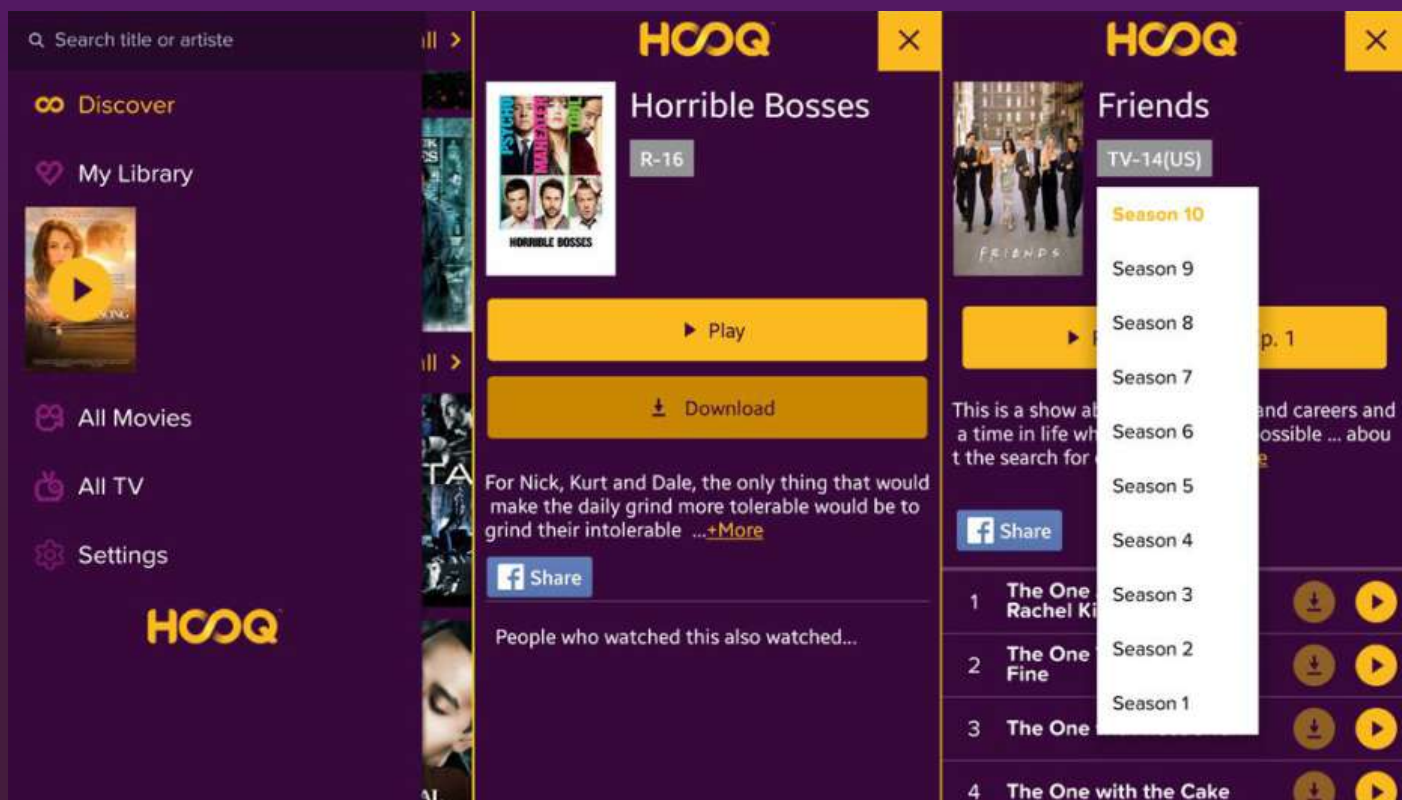
20 Press **Command Option Esc** to open the Force Quit dialog box.



# HOOQ

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

If a genie were to pop out of nowhere and grants me three wishes, one of those would be for a job where my sole task is to watch movies and series of various genres all day and still receive a justifiable amount of compensation. As if on cue, I was asked to review the video-on-demand service **HOOQ**, SEA's answer to Netflix. So it appears, the wish was partially granted—there was neither a genie nor mystical elements involved, though.



If you've been living under a rock for the last few years, allow us to enlighten you about Video on Demand (VOD), the newest internet TV service that could permanently sever civilization's ties with cable television. It is a service that allows you to select, stream or download, and watch the content you want, when you want, instead of waiting for its broadcast time.

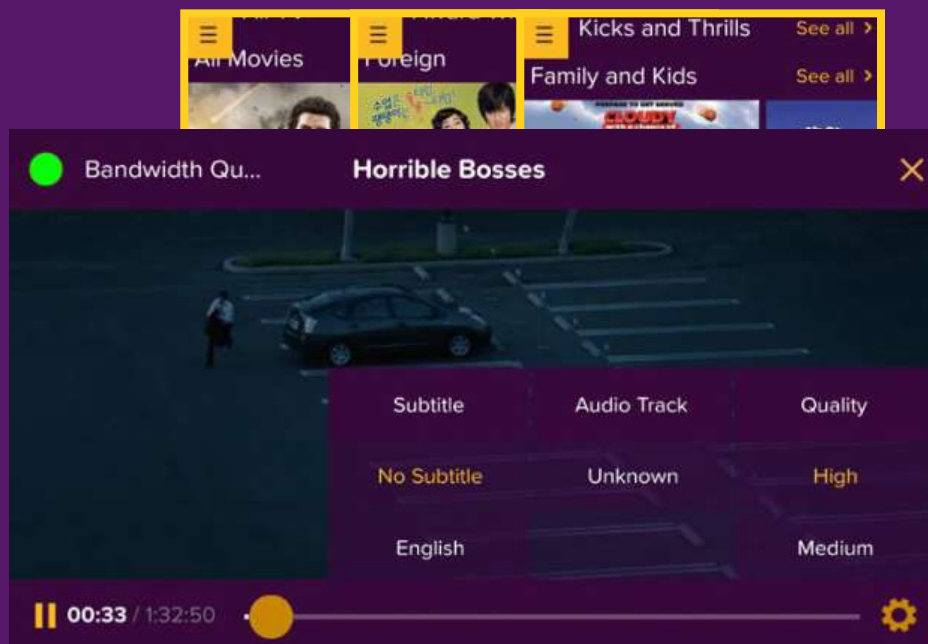
This is also the concept behind **HOOQ**. The app is simple and straightforward. Once you've downloaded and installed the app on your device,

upon start-up you'll be prompted to sign up or, if you're already registered to the service, log in. Signing up is as simple as registering to a social networking site—enter your personal details and you're all set. The next step is choosing a payment method. Access to a diverse selection of top shows, movies, and whatnot comes with a ticket price that shouldn't bother even the most frugal. You can either charge your **HOOQ** monthly subscription of PHP 199 to your credit card, Globe or TM number, or apply your GoSurf/Tattoo bundle activation code. The last step is to verify

your account via the e-mail address you provided. After breezing through each step, you can now go back to the app and begin binge-watching on the fly!

Along with a voucher code that would allow me access to the service for 30 days, **HOOQ** even lent a Samsung tablet and a portable Tattoo Wi-Fi to complete the experience. To stream your chosen content, you'd have to be connected to a cellular or Wi-Fi network. Starting the stream depends on internet speed—using the pocket Wi-Fi device





gave the app an average start-up of around 10 to 20 seconds whilst connection to a network with a higher bandwidth will have the app up and running in a blink of an eye.

### Features

HOOQ's catalog of movies and shows gives you over 30,000 hours of international and local content to consume. With this overwhelming amount of good stuff, you'd ask, where do I begin? To start you off, *Discover* organizes content posters in categories such as the newest arrivals, what's popular in Hollywood, what's popular in the country, everything on TV, everything on the big screen, and niche interests namely Against All Odds, Kicks and Thrills, For Laughs, Date Night, Family and Kids, Nail Bitters, Foreign, and Sizzlers.

If you've got a particular artist, movie, or show in mind, you can tap the menu bar on the top left of the home screen where you would see a search toolbar to type in your preferred title. Under the menu bar, you will also see *My Library*, shows content you recently viewed and titles you've downloaded; *All Movies*, shows the service's whole movie catalog; *All TV*, features every show on the service; and *Settings*, for updating your information and tweaking the service to better please you.

### HOOQ Experience

After deciding on a title, tap the poster and you'll see a synopsis, rating, a drop-down menu of seasons and list of episodes for TV shows, a Facebook share button, similar titles, and a play and download—a function not available for some items—button.

When you download a title, you have the option of selecting your preferred video quality—high, medium, and low. Meanwhile, viewing controls when streaming online will pop up when you tap anywhere on the screen. Doing this brings up controls for choosing subtitles, audio track, and video quality. Random tapping of interface controls resulted in delayed response in rare occasions, but that's really not something you're

going to do. With normal use, it should work without a hitch.

I could say that the app works best when you are connected to a fast and reliable Wi-Fi or cellular signal. With intermittent internet following me wherever I go, I gave up and tried hooking up the device to our office internet. This made for a well-optimized streaming experience. The solid connection allowed the best video quality, and minimized buffering times. On the downside, a weak signal can cause feed errors and lower video quality. HOOQ can't be blamed here though; it's the country's network infrastructures that need a long overdue upgrade.

If you decide to go back to content you've already started and left halfway through, you'll be glad to know that you can begin where you left off. But you could always re-watch the whole thing.

For foreign content: Anime, Bollywood, and Korean shows, a few of each are conveniently dubbed in English (Anime in particular), and there are also titles subbed in English. Unfortunately, while navigating through foreign selections, I found a few without any English translation options; which might be a problem to those who don't speak the language.

### Why should you get HOOQ'd?

At present, HOOQ's catalog of movies is solid. It somehow lacks in the TV show department but at the rate the company's going, soon enough we will be seeing more high-profile international shows come in the service. If you're still not onboard, know that HOOQ's local content is aplenty; you can also enjoy unlimited entertainment in up to five devices with a single account, stream on two devices simultaneously, and download up to five titles for offline streaming. Plus, HOOQ's fast-growing library of content changes up all the time; you'll never tire and run out of movies and shows to satisfy the entertainment-junkie in you. Now, you've got all the right reasons to be HOOQ'ed!



# CAMERA LENSES

## WHAT THE F-STOP?

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

If you're a hobbyist or beginner DSLR photographer, you probably scored your gear in a bundle—the camera itself, a memory card, tripod, carrying case, and the kit lens with all its mysterious runes and markings. The first time I handled a full snapper, all I could think about was “18 to 55mm? This lens right here’s probably a good 4- to 5-inches long. Why would they put that there?” Then I did my research and went “Ooooooooooh.”

### Letters, numbers, and other mumbo-jumbo

While the slew of symbols on a lens barrel looks like the result of it being dipped in alphabet soup, they tell you mostly everything you need to know about the tool's capabilities. The random jumble isn't just for show as it'll tell you just what kind of shots you'll be able to produce. Portraits, landscapes, street, sports, and wildlife—all specializations thrive in certain lens specifications while being lackluster in others.

The first defining factor of any lens is its **focal length**. Shown in millimeters, the focal length determines whether you can capture subjects from far away or if you'll be able to take panoramic vistas. Larger numbers, usually starting at the 70mm mark, indicate zoomed-in prowess; while those less than 35mm mean wide angle fun.

Second is **aperture** which is expressed in f-stops. Though it is stated differently depending on the brand (f/3.5, F3.5, 1:3.5), it means the same throughout: the size of the diaphragm opening that controls how much light reaches the sensor. The smaller the aperture number (f/1.4) the more light the camera will be able to take in, and the faster the shutter speed you'll be able to use. Smaller f-stops also allow shallower depth of field for a sharp subject with blurred surroundings. Larger f-stops (e.g. f/8), meanwhile, merit slower shutters but with maximum sharpness throughout the image.

Third is **lens mount** and **format compatibility**. You can't cram a Nikon lens into a Canon camera or vice versa; and you can't expect a lens meant for new-gen shooters to properly fit in legacy units. New camera designs entail different mounting mechanisms that may or may not be backwards compatible, so you have to check if your shooter and barrel match (or use an adaptor). There are also format issues that ties into the crop factor we discussed in last month's *Snapshots* feature. Non-full frame cameras require a specific type of lens in order to get more of the scene, lest you're okay with cropped outputs.

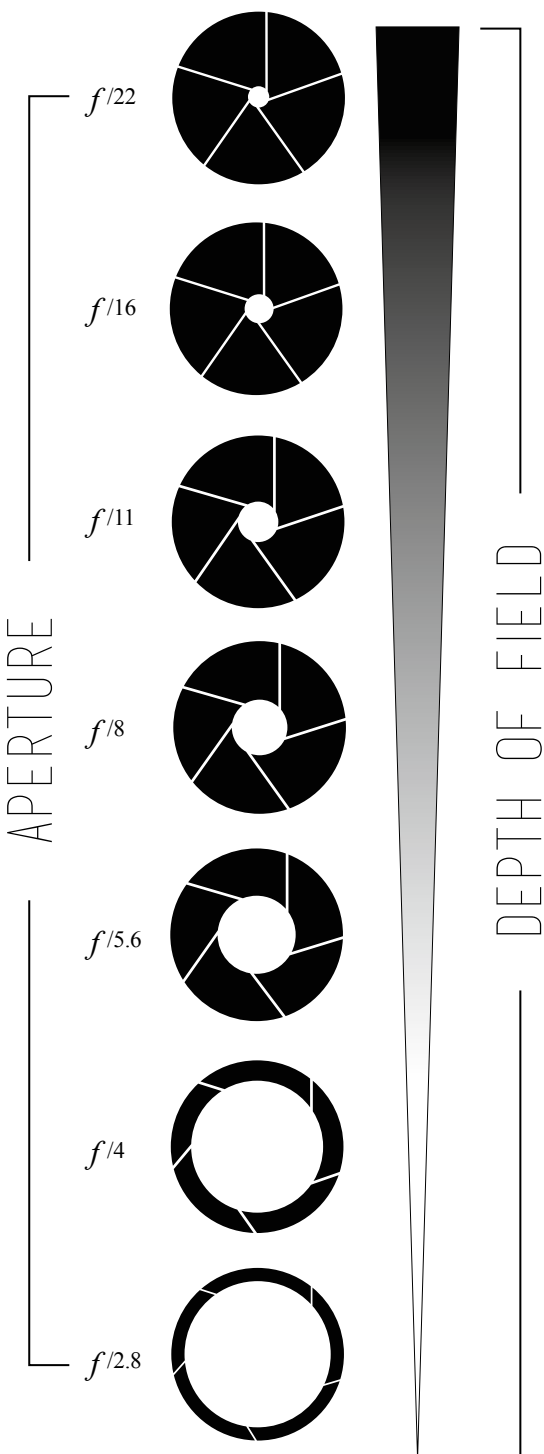
Finally, you have the **focus** and **stabilizer** switches nearest to the mounting point. They're pretty straightforward, determining whether focus is automatically handled or driven by the manual focus ring; while the lens stabilizer control works by softening vibrations for mostly blur-free shots. Like aperture, manufacturers have different marketing terms for lens stabilization, but that shouldn't confuse you.

### A lens for every occasion

Now that we've got the terminology down, what lens would best suit your purposes? To determine the final piece of your kit, you should first ask yourself whether you're comfortable with moving. A lot.

Lenses are classified into two major categories: prime and zoom. Prime ones are those that come with a fixed focal length and fixed aperture, while zoom ones are those operating within a range such as a kit lens' 18 to 55mm length and f/3.5 to f/5.6 aperture.

Using the former will have you moving a lot as you can't zoom in to change your composition or angle. Yes, it does suck, but you'll be learning a lot regarding photography by going the super manual route. They also cost less and are more durable because they have virtually no moving parts; are lighter and more compact; can produce sharper images with more accurate colors and shallower depth of field for bokeh; and can let in more light for better shots in the dark.







On the other hand, you're trading insane image quality for ultimate versatility when you go with a zooming variant. With lenses going from 35 to 100mm, transitioning between wide angle and telephoto is as easy as a twist on the ring. Zoom lenses also boast multiple stabilization options to compensate for the vibrations and movements accrued by their oh-so bulky forms. Plus the mid- to high-end zoomers look like canons, and that's simply awesome.

Once you have that settled, it's just a matter of picking a specification you want and you'll be good to go. Lenses are fascinating in that different ones produce different outputs even when you're using the same camera and settings throughout. You may not need to get new one(s) now, but if the need arises or if you've just outgrown your kit lens, then at least you won't be stumped by all the barrel jargon.





# Why you shouldn't throw that phone in the trash

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

**As flagships get launched year after year, and as more affordable smartphones make their way into the market, we're never short of mobile devices that fit every need and price point. The country, being the world's texting capital, has an obvious love affair with phones. In fact, the International Data Corporation said that 12.4-million smartphones have been added to the country's mobile ranks last year, further supplementing the estimated 106,987,098 already in rotation during 2013.**

Yep, that's a whole lot of phones. The figures are only expected to grow as more bang for the buck devices duke it out in the low- and mid-range tiers. Older and time-worn models inevitably have to bow out, left to be forgotten in a closet, given away as gifts, sold as "pre-loved," or thrown in the trash.

The first three are all valid options. Older phones serve as good backups or secondary devices; are quick gifts for the *bunso* or technologically-challenged relatives; and can be sold for some easy cash. The last option though is a plain no-no for a couple of reasons, the most obvious of which is that you're essentially throwing away insert-how-much-you-bought-the-device-for-here.

You're also exposing yourself to major privacy risks if you haven't cleaned up the phone extremely well. That means making backups, taking out your SIM and memory card, doing a full wipe, and double checking to make sure nothing's left.

More importantly, you're contributing to the growth of the staggering (yet still conservative) 50-million tons of e-waste every year. Dumped together or mixed with other non-biodegradable garbage in landfills throughout the world, e-waste kills us humans and Mother Nature with equal ferocity.

On the people-side of the equation, we have the scavengers which hunt down your discarded gadget for the little bit of precious metal inside, which includes gold, steel, copper, aluminum, and platinum, to name a few. The tech's exposure to the elements lead to some pretty nasty chemical reactions which then causes the poisoning of multiple bodily systems such as the central nervous, peripheral nervous, pulmonary, reproductive, and urinary. Besides lead, mercury, and cadmium poisoning, these rummagers are also prone to the nicks and cuts—as well as all the bacterial, fungal, and viral infections you can think off—associated with climbing the techie smoky mountain.

Meanwhile, the same elements that are looking to kill you also leech the life out of the surrounding environment. Some people mistakenly burn e-waste hoping to lessen their occupied real estate, only to be met with a vile plume of heavy metals and plastic. A dual-faceted killer, the toxic gas makes anyone, human or animal, woozy and sick. If not inhaled, then the cloud of death joins its cousins in the sky to form a deadly blanket of nope that when heavy enough, goes back down on us as acid rain.

Besides hightailing it to the atmosphere and back, e-waste byproducts also seep into the ground and contaminate water pipes and underground water pockets. Give them some time and they'll eventually make their way towards streams and rivers, and eventually, the open seas, leading to the acidification of the liquids therein. When that happens, say goodbye to any aerial, land, and aquatic fauna and flora that makes contact with the sludge. Imagine *Finding Nemo*, but with dead fish and toxic green water instead.

We also have bioaccumulation and biomagnification to worry about. While toxicity won't necessarily cause you to kick the can immediately, accumulating more poison than you can rid of will get you closer and closer to said kicking. On the other hand, biomagnification sees us, the proverbial food chain toppers, falling prey to the compromised nature of the things we eat (plants and meat), which in turn have been compromised by those under them in the food chain. That mercury molecule that was eaten by planktons, then eaten by fish, then eaten by bigger fish, then eaten by you? It's in your body wrecking stuff up.

Who figured that the sleek piece of tech you have on your person could be such a killer? Our toys can and will kick us in our behinds when we least expect it, so it's best to address the problem before it peaks. If your gadgets really need to be disposed of, take them to specialized bins and centers for proper management. You're literally doing everyone a huge favor.

*...you're contributing to the growth of the staggering (yet still conservative) 50-million tons of e-waste every year. Dumped together or mixed with other non-biodegradable garbage in landfills throughout the world, e-waste kills us humans and Mother Nature with equal ferocity.*





# Staying Connected Abroad

Words by Presy Alba

When traveling abroad, our first concern is always how we could stay connected to the people at home and to our travel companions. Technology allows us to stay in touch wherever we are in the world, so the only consideration that remains is how much you are willing to shell out to stay connected.



## Go Roaming

The most convenient and easiest way to arrange for connectivity abroad is just to activate roaming for both calls and data on your postpaid mobile account. All you need to do is enroll your phone for roaming before you leave for your trip and switch your phone to roaming when you land.

Globe postpaid subscribers are assured of a PHP 599 flat-rate per day per country on data usage (i.e., you will be charged PHP 599 by each operator if you travel from one country to another within 24 hours).

For Smart customers, this same service is available for PHP 550 per day, but you will have to manually select the service provider first before you turn data roaming on or you will be charged per kb downloaded.

## Rely on Public Wi-Fi

The cost-conscious traveler can stay connected via public Wi-Fi networks in airports, hotels, and other public places. This needs some preparation before you start your trip. For example, you can download JiWire's offline Wi-Fi database so you will have an idea where hotspots are located at your destination.

Before booking your hotel, you may want to check how reliable the hotel's Wi-Fi is going to be at

[www.hotelwifitest.com](http://www.hotelwifitest.com)—they have a crowd-sourced database of approximate Wi-Fi speeds.

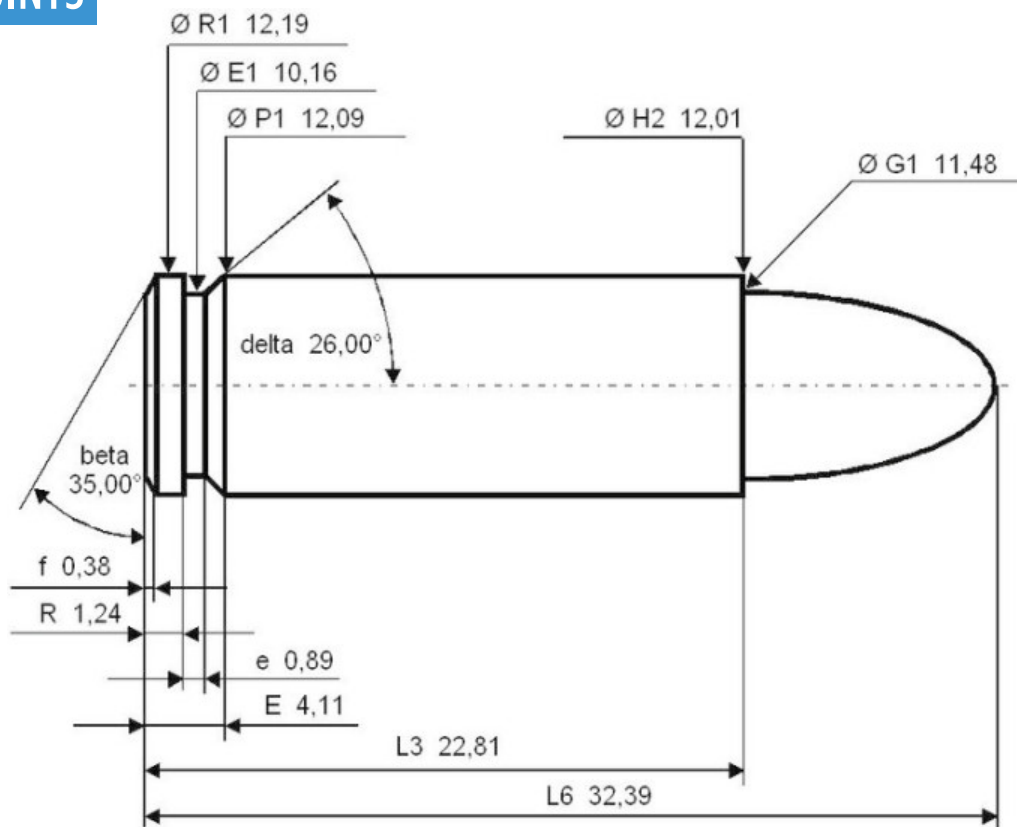
If you intend to rely on public Wi-Fi while abroad, make sure that your device is loaded with apps that will allow you to stay connected—*WhatsApp* and *Viber* are great for keeping in touch with people within your traveling group and with people at home.

Public Wi-Fis can be notoriously slow. To reduce any frustration because of slow internet connection, make sure that you install and use *Opera Mini* for faster browsing on a low bandwidth connection.

## Going Local

If you intend to make many local calls, it may be practical to bring along an unlocked phone and buy a local prepaid SIM card as soon as you land.

For groups traveling together, it may also be practical to rent a Mi-Fi device which can tether up to 10 devices for as low as EUR 5 per day (for rental period of more than 14 days) or EUR 9 per day for rentals up to five days.



## Making the case for 9mm

Words by Ren Alcantara

Let's ruffle some feathers.

**There is a debate that rages on among those who are into guns, and one that will never, ever get settled. If you're reading this article, you should know exactly what we're talking about. Let's get right into it. Which caliber is the best for self-defense?**

Before anything else, we should be clear. Not this, nor any other article anywhere is going to end the long-standing debate. There's just too much going on here in terms of personal preference, actual data, and voodoo to come up with a conclusive answer. Why ask the question then? It's for the sake of those people who are looking to get a better idea of where we are at this point in "The Question."

Secondly, more than any single caliber, load, or firearm, shot placement is still key. This is never going to change, and there is nothing we can say about it that hasn't already been said. Keep it in mind though, we will be going back to this later.

Finally, we're not trying to convince anyone to pick one caliber over another. There's really no point. Everyone, you and I included, will choose what we're comfortable carrying. We're just going to present some evidence, and at the end of the day, you pick what you're going to pick, and that's cool. We're just saying this because some people are so convinced that 9mm is too dainty for "real" defense, and immediately throw it out the window.

Ok, here goes.

There are basically two poles to the debate: heavy, large, and slow, on one side; light, small, and fast on the other. Each brings everything involved with it to the table as regards recoil, how many you can fit in the magazine, etcetera.

9mm offers a few key advantages. First, there's capacity. All other things being equal, you'll be able to cram more 9mm rounds in a weapon than 45 ACP. A single stack 1911 in 9mm will typically have a capacity of 9+1, while the same

pistol chambered in 45 ACP will have 7+1, with flush magazines on both. This difference gets magnified the larger your magazine capacity gets. A few extra chances to get the shot right is worth more than the advantage a slightly larger wound cavity gives.

While we're on the topic, and this might be oversimplifying it a little, but some proponents of the 45 ACP seem to want to look at the amount of surface area the round covers. The added surface area an expanded 45 ACP covers is easily made up for by a few extra rounds of 9mm. If a



image from: <http://www.evergladesammo.com/>



single round of 45 ACP increases the chance of doing enough damage to stop a threat due to its larger diameter, wouldn't that advantage be offset by those few extra rounds of 9mm? Sure, pistol rounds only damage what they touch, but if you're looking to "touch" the bad guy with just a single round and hope the extra fractions of an inch will make the difference, it might be better to focus on getting more shots to land.

Another "fact" that gets thrown around a lot is that the 45 ACP has more stopping power. On the surface of it, a bigger, heavier round will appear to have more of it. It's like getting hit by a ham versus getting hit by a fist, right? Well, not exactly. Stopping power is a combination of a lot of things, some quantifiable, and some just too amorphous to measure. Shot placement is more valuable here than any stopping power hype can tell us. It's really a function of more than just the amount of lead you throw at the bad guy. Until we can reliably measure all the various factors (and we mean all of them) surrounding what makes a bad guy stop trying to do bad things, stopping power as a metric isn't really worth very much.

This brings to mind knockdown power as well. It's as if people expect a single 230 grain projectile going at say, 830 feet per second to significantly change the direction of a 200 pound person going at 14 feet per second. Seems plausible? Let's rephrase: From a purely physics perspective, it isn't reasonable to think a 230 grain projectile at 800 feet per second is going to significantly

affect the trajectory of a 1,400,000 grain object travelling at 14 feet per second. It's just not going to happen. The difference between a 230 grain 45 ACP and even a really light 117 grain 9mm isn't a whole lot compared to 200 pounds (or 1,400,000 grains). It's a little piece of lead, not a bowling ball. Aside from scaring them to a halt, you stop an attacker by physically rendering them unable to act, not blowing them away with a "large" round.

The fact of the matter is that the modern defensive 9mm load is much better than what the same round available back in the 90s (or later) even. The propellants and projectiles offer performance that is more consistent than ever before, allowing for reliable performance in the right firearm. The lower

recoil of the 9mm allows quicker follow-up shots and the potential for shots that land on target better and often.

In a **tactical-life.com** interview trying to settle the debate, Dave Emary, senior scientist for Hornady chose 9mm. When a guy who studies and develops rounds for a living, and he chooses 9mm, I'm inclined to agree.

To be clear, any round is better than no round, and I also shoot and carry .45 ACP. It's a fine round, and I wouldn't feel undergunned carrying it. The point of this article isn't to say the 45 is bad. Our aim is to try and convince those who immediately dismiss the 9mm as inadequate to re-evaluate their bias, and maybe reap some benefit from doing so.



Don't get us wrong though, .40 SW and .45 ACP are also perfectly capable rounds, but 9mm is perfectly adequate.  
image from: <https://wikipedia.com>



images from: <http://media.midwayusa.com/>



# Dino Romano

Country Manager for Mobile Business Group, Lenovo Philippines

Interviewed by Maribelle Alba

**Describing himself as an entrepreneurial executive with extensive sales management background, Dino Romano, the head honcho for mobile business at Lenovo Philippines, has indeed proven his mettle in the one year that he has been on the job.**

Dino Romano assumed the position of country manager for mobile business group at Lenovo Philippines in August 2014. Prior to that, he was head for non-retail and corporate sales at Sony Philippines from 2012 to 2014, and national sales account manager of Sony Mobile Communications from 2007 to 2012. Before moving into the smartphone industry, he honed his sales and marketing skills in the food and beverage business, working for brands such as Del Monte and Nestle. He has a degree in Applied Economics from De La Salle University, and lists photography, interior design, architecture, travel, culture, and tennis among his interests.

Lenovo is a relative newcomer to the smartphone fray, entering the Philippine market only in late 2011.

To gain a foothold in this highly competitive and price sensitive market, its entry strategy was to introduce its affordable line of A-series smartphones at a very attractive sub-PHP 5,000 price point.

In 2013, Lenovo signed NBA superstar Kobe Bryant to be its smartphone endorser as part of its international marketing campaign. In the Philippines, this was mounted as the "Walang Iwanan" promo to strengthen brand awareness, particularly among young consumers.

By the time Romano joined Lenovo in August 2014, the brand was at a respectable #4 to #5 spot. Within two months, he had successfully moved Lenovo to a strong #2, according to GfK Philippines, a consumer research firm that tracks industry performance, a position the brand has maintained over the past several months.

Very modestly, Romano attributes this dramatic success to teamwork and collaboration within his marketing team, his distribution channels, and his advertising/PR agencies. There is hardly any mention of what must have been his very significant role in masterminding Lenovo's partnership with local telcos to boost market presence.

He notes that the brand gained ground where the telcos started offering their phones for entry level postpaid plans, thus driving up sales volumes. Forty percent of Lenovo's mobile business is through the telcos, and Romano happily reports that all three—Globe, Smart, and Sun—now carry a range of Lenovo smartphones. In another significant breakthrough, the telco deals now include not just the entry level devices but also the mid-level models, such as the S90, A5000, A6000, and Vibe Shot.

While Lenovo's entry-level phones still account for 85 to 90-percent of domestic sales, Romano says his strategic goal is to enhance the Lenovo brand image. "I want to challenge the notion that premium is expensive, and this is the essence of our Vibe-On campaign," he explains, adding: "With the Lenovo Vibe Shot, we have a device

that is packed with premium features at a very affordable price."

Not one to toot his own horn, he is quick to give credit to Open Communications Inc., Lenovo mobile's exclusive distributor, saying: "In the open channel, we are lucky to have very good distribution partners all over the country. Through their initiatives, our phones are actually reaching consumers."

He also mentions that regular feedback from on-site promoters provide market intelligence inputs, and perhaps this sensitivity to market conditions and consumer sentiment is one secret to his success in capturing market share.

In 2014 Lenovo bought Motorola Mobility, with top management deciding that it would continue as a separate brand. "With the acquisition of Motorola, Lenovo mobile is now #3 globally. We are a global company with a presence in 60 countries worldwide. My job has become even more challenging because integration is now happening in the local market, and we want to maximize our sales team and distribution network," Romano clarifies.

Asked to distinguish between the two brands, he notes that Motorola phones are targeted at the mid- to high-end niche, and will have a higher price point. Lenovo phones, on the other hand, will continue to strengthen its premium features and affordable price equation.

Although a separate business unit, Romano sees Lenovo's market leadership in the personal computer category as a plus factor. "Lenovo has a heritage as a technology company at the forefront of innovation. The reputation of our PCs as very reliable devices is definitely an asset."

In the Philippines, the smartphone market is projected to reach 14-million units this year, with some 50 brands competing for market share. Romano notes that: "In our SWOT analyses, there are always threats from new, low-priced brands, that are coming in very aggressively, especially with the dealers. We try not to lose sight of our own strategies and strengths, and continue to focus on the basic 4Ps of marketing—product, price, place, promotion."

Lenovo is lucky to have a fifth P in the marketing mix, the right Person at the helm, Dino Romano.





# Windows 10 is here



The long wait is over. Microsoft Philippines officially launched Windows 10 last July 29, 2015, making the Philippines one of the 190 countries around the world that simultaneously released Windows' latest iteration. Windows 10 is available as a free upgrade for eligible Windows 7 or 8.1 devices for the first year, or with new PCs and tablets. Businesses however, will have to pay for enterprise operating system upgrades.

Calling it the most secure Windows ever, Windows 10 is delivered as a service and is designed to stay up-to-date. Through free updates, users' systems are upgraded with the latest features and security updates for the lifetime of the device.

Microsoft believes that the best screen is the one in front of you, and so they designed a platform that works on a broad range of devices, offering the same experience across the board. Offering a fresh yet familiar experience for its users, the Live Tiles and data automatically syncs every time you log-in to your Microsoft account, making moving from one device to another a seamless process.

"Windows 10 is designed to empower people to achieve great things and to deliver a more human way to do. Further, it builds on our vision of offering our consumers a more personal and natural computing experience that offers

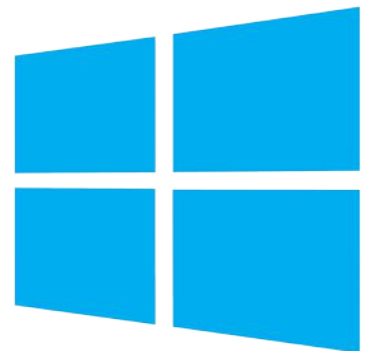
unmatched mobility and a tailored experience across devices," said Mae Moreno, Windows lead for Microsoft Philippines. "We believe that the new Windows can truly help our customers be productive in both their digital work and their life and this represents our first step towards a whole new generation of Windows."

To provide a more personal and productive experience, Windows 10 can handle voice, pen, and gesture inputs. It ships with the latest version of MS Office, works perfectly with Skype, and allows the user to switch between apps and stay organized with Snap and Task view.

Some of the new offerings include:

- Cortana, the personal digital assistant.
- The new *Microsoft Edge* browser.
- Continuum, optimizes apps and experiences across touch and desktop modes.
- The Microsoft Phone Companion app-enables smartphones (iPhones, Android, or Windows phones) to work seamlessly with Windows 10 devices.
- Support for the new DirectX 12 API.
- Redesigned user interface.
- Hololens compatible for augmented reality.

For more information about Windows 10 and how to upgrade, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/features>.



# Windows 10

# STARMOBILE LAUNCHES PH'S FIRST LINE OF DIGITAL TV PHONES



Ever wished you could watch free, cable-quality TV on the go? Now you can stop wishing because Starmobile, the country's most innovative mobile brand, offers you a handy solution to these problems, with the launch of the country's first ever line of digital TV phones. These mobile hybrids allow you to watch Digital TV (DTV) channels for free anytime and anywhere DTV services are available.

Want in on the most fun trend in mobile gadgets since the invention of the smartphone? You can choose from three models: the big-screen KNIGHT Vision, the slender UP Vision, and the big battery UP Max.



**Starmobile  
KNIGHT  
Vision**

## Starmobile's Digital TV Phones: The Three Mobile-TV Hybrids Made For Pinoys

Leading the pack is the **KNIGHT Vision** (PHP 9,990). It comes with a quad-core processor with 2GB of RAM and an HD screen with in-plane switching, which means that images look great from any angle, making it perfect for watching vids with your best bud, girlfriend or boyfriend, or crush. It comes with real-time recording technology so you never have to miss a moment in your favorite sport or drama.

Its camera is equipped with Optical Image Stabilization (OIS) technology, which keeps your photos blur-free and sharp. A physical anti-shake mechanism will allow you to take better videos,

which are sure to be great with a 13MP rear camera with Sony EXMOR technology as well as an 8MP front camera for selfie goodness.

The phone has an internal memory capacity of 16GB, though a microSD card slot ensures you can add up to 64GB to that. Meanwhile, there's no need to worry that your TV viewing will result in a dead phone as the 2450mAh lithium polymer battery gives you up to four hours TV time, 15 hours talk time, and up to 15 days on standby mode.

The **UP Vision** (PHP 4,990) has more streamlined power, but it still packs quite a punch. This digital TV phone is the slimmest and lightest phone of the bunch, which means it'll fit like a dream into most pockets and just about any purse. It features a 1800mAh battery that comes with up to 9 hours talk time and about 10 and a half days on standby mode. Its got a 13MP rear camera that sports an AF Sony BSI lens with a Blue Glass Filter and an 8MP front camera from Samsung.



**Starmobile  
UP Vision**

The **UP Max** (PHP 7,490) is built to outlast its older siblings thanks to its ultra-amped up 5000mAh battery, which is the largest on any smartphone currently on the market. With it you can enjoy up to 10 hours DTV time, 24 hours talk time, and a whopping 41.25 days on standby mode.



**Starmobile  
UP Max**

At 9.6mm—the slimmest for a phone with a 5000mAh battery—its design remains sleek and ergonomically perfect in the palm. Plus, it comes with a DTV antenna dongle which you can simply remove when you're not watching TV.

This Android Lollipop-powered phone also comes with an enhanced user interface, better app compatibility, and improved security features, including mobile anti theft technology and data protection.

Last but not the least, the UP Max also comes with a 13MP Sony IMX 135 with EXMOR RS sensor, which means you can snap photos in low-light and have them come out like a dream.





Starmobile brand ambassador Donnalyn Bartolome with the Starmobile KNIGHT Vision.

#### DTV Phones: A New Take on Pinoy TV Viewing

The technology and versatility of DTV phones mark a new era in Philippine mobile functionality. Starmobile has always put the wants and needs of Pinoy mobile users first, and digital TV phones would fit well into the modern and very mobile lifestyle of today's Filipinos.

With its souped-up line of DTV devices, Starmobile is set to affect the industry and influence the future of mobile.

#### 1. Crisper, high-quality video means more emphasis on great artistry.

Any advances in the quality of video the average viewer can watch have called for the industry to update the way they do things, from the makeup techniques used on actors to visual effects achieved through filming or production.

#### 2. Mobile viewing makes TV a solo affair.

Because you can now watch your favorite TV channels on your mobile through Starmobile, it means you don't have to fight for control of the remote control whenever your favorite show is on air.

#### 3. Digital recording spreads viewing times out.

Primetime may not be prime any longer as real-time recording functions on Starmobile digital TV phones mean that you can wait until later in the evening or even another day entirely before you watch a TV show you've been meaning to catch.

That frees up your social life so you don't have to make the decision between finding out what happens on the season finale of your favorite show and meeting your *barkada* for dinner.

#### 4. 'Anytime, anywhere' means quality TV programming can and should be 24/7.

If you're channel surfing in the wee hours of the morning these days, you'll often find channels replaying old (sometimes very, very old) episodes of their shows. But with the Starmobile DTV phones, now you can watch your shows in bed even without a TV in your room, and you can record shows you might not be able to watch when they air.

This sense of easy access means that smaller channels may want to capitalize on bigger channels' "dead times" and air new content across the region, or top-level TV channels may want to invest in more new shows as the need for reruns will eventually become pretty much defunct. And more shows just mean more TV fun, right?

Even if you're not a TV addict, you'll still get a lot of use out of your digital TV phone. Gamers will love



Starmobile brand ambassadors DJs Slick Rick and Tony Toni of Magic 89.9's Boys' Night Out (BNO) with the Starmobile KNIGHT Vision.

the responsiveness of the system as well as the HD screen, something people who download a lot of videos will get a kick out of too, apart from the huge memory available for use.

Instagrammers and photo-foodies will appreciate the great cameras these come equipped with, as will folks who like to capture moments in time via video (like parents and travel junkies).

The UP Vision, UP Max, and the KNIGHT Vision are now available in Starmobile stores and kiosks nationwide.

To learn more, visit the Starmobile website at [www.starmobile.com.ph](http://www.starmobile.com.ph). You can also search for "Happy Man by Starmobile" on Facebook or follow @happymanPH on Twitter and Instagram.



L-R: Starmobile marketing head Ricelle Simpao, Ryza Cenon, Rich Asuncion, Julian Trono, product marketing manager Elijah Mendoza, product development head Michael Chen, and president Ulysses Lao.

# iflix enters content partnership with GMA



iflix, a subscription-video-on-demand (SVOD) internet TV service, has just inked a content partnership deal with one of the country's leading TV networks, GMA. With this momentous partnership, iflix subscribers now have access to previous and current hit GMA shows, documentaries, and feature films wherever, whenever they please.

Initially, the venture has added 1,200 hours of content to iflix's rapidly growing catalog of entertainment offering. The first batch of GMA titles already rolled out into the service last August 15 with more content on its way.

Popular shows from the network such as *My Husband's Lover*, *Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real*, and *Amaya*, along with GMA News documentaries *i-Witness* and *Pinoy Abroad* are now part of iflix's extensive library of quality movie and television content. Meanwhile, feature films from the network include all-time classics such as *Jose Rizal* and *Muro Ami*, along with more recent titles such as *Sossy Problems* and *The Road* are also now available for viewing on iflix.

iflix also introduced a new in-service function during the event, Catch up TV. This function will allow subscribers to view new episodes of currently airing GMA shows on iflix within seven (7) days of their initial broadcast. For the first batch, local Catch up TV will show *The Half Sisters* with *My Faithful Husband*, *Beautiful Strangers*, and *Pari Ko'y* to follow suit.

"Our partnership with GMA is key in our commitment to providing our members with the best in local and international entertainment. The addition of GMA content is a testament to

that promise in delivering the best in Philippine content to our members across the Southeast Asian region," Sherwin Dela Cruz, country manager for iflix Philippines said.

Just three months into its Philippine launch, iflix has already been offering exceptional international content fast-tracked from the U.S., including top late-night talk show *Conan*, which subscribers can view on the service 24 hours after its broadcast.

iflix has also recently secured first-run rights to the second instalment of *Fargo*, which will premiere October 12, 2015 on FX in the US.

All new episodes will premier exclusively on iflix less than 24-hours after its initial U.S. broadcast.

The internet TV service will soon be available in additional key Southeast Asian markets, including Thailand and Indonesia. Users can also look forward to more content, improved features and user interface, download-now-watch-later function, and promos throughout 2015.

Each subscription allows users to access the service on five devices such as mobile, tablet, computer, or television set. The service is priced at only PHP 129 per month for unlimited access and PHP 99 for Smart and PLDT subscribers.





## SM Supermalls celebrate Cyber Month



SM Cyberzone has wrapped up the annual Cyber Month Tech Sale, a month-long techie affair that saw partner tech stores slashing up to 50-percent off of their wares.

Lasting throughout August, the Cyber Month Tech Sale not only included price discounts on select

gadgets and appliances, but also featured tech talks, game fests, promos, freebies, and exhibits from favorite consumer brands.

Taking center stage during the launch program was LG's Smart Home exhibit at SM Fairview. Held in partnership with LG and SM Appliance

Store, the Smart Home highlighted a technology-driven home with smart appliances including LG's 98-inch Super Ultra HD TV, refrigerators, washing machines, smartphones, and home theatre add-ons.

SM Cyberzone also partnered with Smart Communications, Inc. to mount the Philippine Clash 2015, a nationwide Clash of Clans (CoC) tournament with over PHP 2-million worth of prizes at stake. The tourney has finished its Metro Manila (SM Light Residences), Southern Luzon (SM Lipa), Visayas (SM City Cebu) and Mindanao (SM Lanang Premier Davao) legs, and will be heading to SM Baguio on September 18 for the last Northern Luzon clash. The competition's grand finale will be held on September 26 (Saturday) at SM Mall of Asia.

Additionally, SM Supermalls also held the first ever Cyberzone Cosplay Craze last August 22 to 23 at SM North EDSA, coinciding with the Cosplay Mania '15 Road Show and International Cosplay Day.

Finally, Smart put up the Smart Bro Gadget Expo at SM North EDSA where subscribers were able to avail of discounted gadgets, join device auctions and raffles, and partake in tech talks and product demos.

## Asus ROG showcased at Mindanao Cyber Expo 2015



The Republic of Gamers, Asus' gaming brand, showcased their best wares during the yearly Mindanao Cyber Expo. Held from July 31 until August 2, Davao's biggest tech event also served as a platform for tech talks and seminars, as well as booths from other IT companies.

After conducting a short brand and product presentation, Asus ROG allowed the crowd

to tinker with the items on exhibit, including the Asus ROG G20, G501, and G551; Asus Strix GTX 970 DirectCU II OC; and Strix gaming peripherals.

The G501 is powered by a 4th-generation Intel Core i7 processor and the Nvidia GeForce GTX 960M graphics for the ultimate mobile gaming experience. The powerhouse is tamed by an

Asus-exclusive Hyper Cool technology with dual independent fans for cool and stable performance for any workload. Meanwhile, the G551 also features a GTX 960M video card and 16GB of on-board RAM for gaming and multi-tasking. Both notebooks have a 15.6-inch FHD (1920 x 1080p) for vivid multimedia visuals.

On the other hand, the ROG G20 is a compact gaming desktop with a mere 12.5-liters of volume. It boasts of an Intel Core i7 processor and an Nvidia GeForce GTX 745 GPU, all in a bold and uniquely ROG case with matte black finish accented by aggressive lines and customizable lighting. Due to its form factor, innards, and efficient 10W power draw in Eco Energy mode, it was lauded with the Best Choice of the Year and Golden Awards at Computex 2014.

The Strix Claw gaming mouse, Strix Tactic Pro keyboard, and the Strix Glide mousepads also made an appearance during the expo.

Finally, the Asus Strix Graphics Cards all feature either Direct CU II or III cooling solutions for stable performance and optimal noise on stock and overclocked speeds. They also strut Asus Auto-Extreme, improving the integrity of the cards with reduced strain, while making them tough as nails using aero-space grade Super Alloy Power II components.

# PLDT SME Nation to provide businesses with Google Apps for Work suite



Google Philippines country manager Ken Lingan

In order to help the country's small and medium enterprises, PLDT SME Nation, through ePLDT subsidiary IPC, an Internet data center and cloud services company, is now providing Google Apps for Work to Philippine businesses.

Google Apps for Work is a collaboration suite packed with tools that allow co-workers to effectively work together wherever they are. The applications are categorized according to functionality—Communicate (Gmail, Hangouts, Calendar and Google+), Collaborate (Sheets, Forms, Docs, Slides and Sites), Manage (Google Admin and Vault), and Store (Google Drive).

"When it comes to web-based products and applications, Google is known for reliability and innovation," said PLDT First vice president and head of SME business Kat Luna-Abelarde. "We look forward to being able to offer their industry-leading products and applications to our local SMEs. With IPC and PLDT, SMEs can be assured of reliable and 24/7 customer support together with Google's best-in-class products."

The web-based Google Apps for Work promises SMEs reduced operational costs, maintenance fees, and capital investments. It also allows them to establish their own brand, complete with an integrated domain name in the email address courtesy of Google's network.

Abelarde added, "Google Apps for Work is a convenient and cost-efficient way to harness the benefits of today's rapidly advancing technology. With our reliable and powerful network infrastructures, SMEs can overcome the barriers that eventually lead to low productivity."

Two Google packages are currently available—the basic Google Apps for Work at USD 50 annually per user and Google Drive for Work at USD 120 annually per user. The latter has all the inclusions of Google Apps for Work but with unlimited cloud storage. Both packages come with mobility devices, such as tablets and pocket Wi-Fi routers, as add-ons. PLDT subscribers also have the advantage of being able to upgrade to hardware and connectivity bundles to supplement work place tools.





# New gadget? Find it at YouPoundit



If you've seen the "Jun Sabaytest" unboxing videos of the Blackberry Passport, iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, Apple Watch, and Asus Zenfone 2, then you should be familiar with YouPoundit.

The new e-commerce player has amassed a significant following due to the very entertaining

videos, and they have recently reiterated their commitment towards customer-centric service.

"We are very excited to finally share what we've been working on this past nine months," said Kristian Salvo, founder and CEO. "With our growing selection of brands and product offerings, compelling and

entertaining content, and awesome customer service, YouPoundit is a great destination for your tech needs here in the Philippines.

To provide an excellent shopping experience, YouPoundit relies on three core principles. The first is product selection. YouPoundit curates their product catalogue and fosters a good working relationship with brands and authorized distributors. Second is content. They produce entertaining and educational content that helps customers decide which product to purchase. Third is customer service. A customer-first attitude from pre-sales all the way to after-sales is guaranteed for a refined online experience.

"The easiest way to turn off a customer is when you continuously fall short of their expectations. Yet there seems to be an abundance of businesses here in the Philippines that continue to do so. They all lack one important trait—being customer-centric. We as consumers suffer and tend to settle due to lack of better alternatives," said Salvo. "We would like to give you a better alternative with YouPoundit."

You can visit the site at <http://www.youpoundit.com/>.

## MSI-ECS partners with SimpliVity to boost enterprise data centers with one hyperconverged IT infrastructure solution

Amid the booming economy, internet speeds in the Philippines still rank low and is far behind in comparison to other Asian countries where download speeds are skyrocketing. In a move to help solve this persistent problem, MSI-ECS Phils. Inc., the leading value-added distributor for IT solutions, has announced its partnership with SimpliVity to officially distribute the company's ground-breaking hyperconverged infrastructure platform in the country.

"The benefits of hyperconvergence are just amazing—a game-changer in IT infrastructure. We are confident that local companies will positively embrace this technology, especially when you highlight SimpliVity's high impact on capital and operational expenditures," said Jimmy Go, president and CEO, MSI-ECS.

"We're extremely pleased to be working with one of the key distributors in the Philippines," said Scott Morris, vice president, Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ). "As hyperconverged infrastructure continues to rapidly expand in the Philippines and Asia Pacific, partners like MSI-ECS are essential in helping SimpliVity exceed our partners' and customers' expectations."

Hyperconvergence is the fastest growing segment of the convergence IT category. To understand this concept better, think of smartphones. Years before smartphones came into being, we had dedicated devices for let's say music listening, calling,

photography, and whatnot. But advances in technology paved the way for a smart device that offers you functions of various gizmos in one efficient form factor. In the same way, Hyperconvergence enables cloud-like economics and scale without compromising the performance, reliability, and availability enterprises require in their data center.

Like its name, what SimpliVity brings to the market are small to large simplified infrastructures that help drive down costs, increase operational efficiency, and offer better performance. Basically, transition to SimpliVity's "data center in a box" takes just about three hours to be fully implemented and equals to a data center with less physical devices but deliver increased resiliency and performance. By simplifying the infrastructure, major cuts in power are expected. The overall reduction translates into huge total cost of ownership savings of 3x for small and medium enterprises as well as larger enterprise markets.

SimpliVity creates devices that help companies maximize their bandwidth. Hyperconverged infrastructures deduplicates, compresses, and optimizes data before it is stored or moved over the network. This reduces the bandwidth required



to support core backup and disaster recovery functions as well as remote office/branch office data synchronization.

Even with bandwidth restrictions, SimpliVity's unique hyperconverged platform allows users to safely transfer data no matter the size, fast. Significantly reducing the cost of IT infrastructure by assimilating all data center functions, including servers, storage, WAN optimization, data protection, cloud gateway, and more, into a single 2U building block, SimpliVity is all about delivering exceptional outcomes.

To learn more about hyperconvergence and how SimpliVity can help your organization, contact MSI-ECS at 688-3704, email [mvalenzuela@msi-ecs.com.ph](mailto:mvalenzuela@msi-ecs.com.ph), or visit [www.simplivity.com](http://www.simplivity.com).

# Globe opens doors of its first two-storey GEN3 store in Greenbelt

Globe Telecom is bringing a world-class retail experience to the central business district in the country with the opening of its first two-storey GEN3 store in Greenbelt 3, Makati. Strategically located in the central business district of the country, more customers in Manila will now be able to experience next-generation retail in one dynamic and interactive space.

The newly opened store is the fourth GEN3 store to be opened in the country since the project's launch in December last year. The newest GEN3 store in Greenbelt showcases lifestyle zones such as Music, Entertainment, Life, and Productivity to the self-service customer kiosks.

Each lifestyle zone is fashioned to feature the telco's top-notch roster of content; from the best music on Spotify, in-demand movie and TV titles on HOOQ, and the latest in mobile gaming such as Clash of Clans and Candy Crush, among others. GEN3 stores follow the latest trends and with new content every quarter, customers can expect new activities to experience and new stories to get inspiration from.

"Our journey to transforming the customer experience continues with the opening of another GEN3 store in the country, this time

in Makati, the country's central business district. This is the first two-storey store which means that more customers will be able to enjoy the innovative and interactive experience that the GEN3 store offers. In the same way that Globe has transformed the Philippine mobile landscape by recognizing the digital shift and responding to the needs of our customers, we also see GEN3 creating a new standard for telco retailing not just in the Philippines but in the world," said Ernest Cu, president and CEO at Globe.

Notably, GEN3 is the first store in Asia to carry the ZAGG machine, a revolutionary device that customizes industry standard screen protection for almost all available smartphones, tablets, and smart watches in the market. The store also carries Ubooly, a cuddly plushie you can house your smartphone in so it talks, listens,



and plays with you via an app of the same moniker available on Android and iOS.

Globe is set to open one more GEN3 store at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong come October. Globe also announced the construction of the Globe Iconic Store that is set to be the biggest and grandest Globe store. The Globe Iconic Store will soon rise right above the Bonifacio Global City amphitheatre at the Bonifacio High Street Central in Taguig City.

# Globe partners with TPB in support of Visit the Philippines Year 2015 campaign

Globe Telecom has recently announced its partnership with the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) of the Philippines to support the Visit the Philippines Year 2015 campaign. Along with the aim of promoting the country as Asia's top tourist destination, Globe is also TPB's first Philippine telco partner to offer affordable communication services to millions of tourists and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) visiting and returning to the country.

According to a recent report by the Department of Tourism, the Philippines registered a total of 2.23 million international visitors from January to May 2015 alone, an 8.15-percent growth from the previous year. This steady growth of international visitors in the country as well as the increasing number of OFWs returning home prompted Globe to collaborate with TPB to further drive its Visit the Philippines Year 2015 campaign. With this team-up, Globe now offers its Traveler SIM for free to give tourists and OFWs worry-free connectivity during their stay in the Philippines.

The Globe Traveler SIM is a local prepaid SIM card that offers local rates for calls, texts, and mobile data services, giving tourists and visitors alike a more convenient and affordable way to reach their contacts wherever in the world from the

Philippines. With the SIM, users can receive calls and texts from abroad for free and cut costs on mobile data by subscribing to TravelSurf. The latter allows them to surf the Internet on mobile for an affordable rate of USD 11 for seven days or USD 23 for 30 days. Users can also call abroad for as low as USD 0.40 per minute.

Tourists and OFWs can claim the free Globe Traveler SIM by presenting their non-Philippine passport, foreign resident card, Seaman's book, or OFW E-card at any of the Globe booths located at NAIA, Cebu, Davao, Kalibo, Iloilo, and Clark International Airport.



For more information on the free Globe Traveler SIM, visit [www.globe.com.ph/international/traveling-in-the-philippines/traveler-sim](http://www.globe.com.ph/international/traveling-in-the-philippines/traveler-sim). For information on activities and events, please log on to [www.visitph2015.com](http://www.visitph2015.com).



## Don's Original Spanish Churros



There's nothing more comforting than a plate of freshly-fried churros and hot, rich dark chocolate served to you on a cold morning—or any other time of the day. But unless you know how to make this traditional Spanish

breakfast, you'd have to settle with store takeaways.

Don's Original Spanish Churros offers this crisp on the outside, and soft and chewy on

the inside fried-dough pastry treat through its current branches at Alabang Town Center, Pergola Mall BF Paranaque, SM Fairview, Sta. Lucia East Mall, Glorietta Mall, Robinsons Lipa Batangas, SM Baguio City, and Evia Lifestyle Mall Las Pinas.

Now that this crunchy-soft goodness has hit the mainstream, Don's Original Spanish Churros is giving you the opportunity to enjoy this yummy treat and own a churros store that promises delightful returns all at the same time.

Don's Original Spanish Churros is now open for franchising. By becoming a Don's Original Spanish Churros partner, you are guaranteed huge plusses, one of which is being among the firsts to operate this tasty franchise in preferred target locations—malls, cinemas, schools, indoor and outdoor commercial establishments, offices, airports, villages.

If you are interested in owning a Don's Original Spanish Churros franchise, contact Dondee Lagman at 0917-8136552, 0917-5867415, 02-5077406 or visit [www.donspanishchurros.com](http://www.donspanishchurros.com).

## Ocean Adventure gains custodial rights over stranded dolphins



Last July 18, 2015, a historic event took place at Ocean Adventure, the open water marine park in Subic Bay where its representatives and the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN), along with the Regional Directors of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Offices 1 and 3 signed a Memorandum of Agreement granting custodial rights to Ocean Adventure for rehabilitated and stranded dolphins deemed un-releasable.

Of the animals covered in this MOA are three dolphins known as the "dynamite girls," victims of dynamite fishing which left them with significant hearing impairments. Unable to survive in the wild, they will now enjoy a safe permanent home at Ocean Adventure.

Ten years ago, Ocean Adventure partnered with BFAR to form the PMMSN as the national organization to rescue, rehabilitate, and release

sick and injured whales, dolphins, and dugongs. The PMMSN now has over 3,000 trained BFAR personnel and stakeholders around the country, over 60 veterinarians trained in their medical treatment, and recorded over 620 stranding events to their credit. Ocean Adventure has responded to 58 of those stranding, and operates the only rehabilitation facility in the country, the Dolphin Rescue Center.

# Petron Value Card: Special Bonus Points



Petron Corporation, the country's leading oil company, is giving its loyal Petron Value Card holders even more reasons to smile with the introduction of special bonus points. Normally, fueling up with Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Super Xtra Gasoline, Petron Turbo Diesel or Petron Diesel Max allows you to earn one value point for every PHP 250-worth of fuel spend. You can also earn value points when you purchase Petron engine oils and Petron Gasul from participating service stations.

## FREQUENT VISIT BONUS POINTS

Now, frequent visits to Petron allow you to earn points faster. How? On every fifth visit-day, your total accumulated purchases give you bonus points as follows:

| Accumulated Purchase   | Bonus Points |
|------------------------|--------------|
| PHP 5,000 and above    | 25           |
| PHP 4,000 to PHP 4,999 | 20           |
| PHP 3,000 to PHP 3,999 | 15           |
| PHP 2,000 to PHP 2,999 | 10           |
| PHP 1,000 to PHP 1,999 | 5            |
| PHP 500 to PHP 999     | 3            |

## BIRTHDAY BONUS POINTS

Petron Value Card holders get a special treat when they fuel up within five days of their birthday, with the following bonus points:

| Purchase Amount     | Bonus Points |
|---------------------|--------------|
| PHP 1,000 and above | 30           |
| PHP 500 to PHP 999  | 15           |
| PHP 100 to PHP 499  | 5            |

Be sure to register your Petron Value Card and start earning these special bonus points. Text HELP to 0917-5671111 for assistance.

## WHERE CAN I USE MY POINTS?

That's a question many Petron Value Card holders ask. First, you can use your points to pay for your fuel purchases at participating Petron stations nationwide. Each point is worth PHP 1, so the more points you have, the more cash you can save.

You can convert your PVC points to PAL miles, so your fuel-ups can actually help you fly!

And, you can also convert your points to load your mobile phone, with available prepaid credits of PHP 20, PHP 50, and PHP 100 from Smart, Globe, and Sun.

## PARTNER ESTABLISHMENTS

Beyond your fuel needs, your Petron Value Card also gives you special benefits at partner establishments. Just show your card to enjoy as much as 50-percent discount from a wide range of dining partners, travel and leisure, health and wellness, retail, and automotive establishments.

Keep track of special offers at partner establishments through the free Petron Value Card app on both iOS and Android smartphones.

## PETRON VALUE CARD APP

You need to register to activate the app, after which you can get real-time updates on your Value Points, plus the details of your last two transactions. The Station Finder helps you locate the Petron stations near you, while the Promos button brings up the mechanics of the latest promos so you're sure to never miss out on free goodies. The Service button provides access to towing services, personal accident insurance, weather information, LTO registration assistance, etc.

Don't miss out on all these exciting rewards and benefits. Sign up and get your Petron Value Card at participating Petron service stations nationwide. Always present your Petron Value Card every time you gas up to keep earning points. And when you fuel up, pay with Peso points, save your cash!







#PetronBestDay

Best Day   
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## EXCITING REWARDS

ENJOY THESE BENEFITS FROM **PETRON VALUE CARD**



**BONUS** Peso Points  
on your 5th day visit



**BONUS** Peso Points  
on your Birthday



**REDEEM**  
Cellphone Load



**EARN** Points  
On Fuel Purchase



**FREE** Towing &  
Roadside Assistance



**FREE** Personal  
Accident Insurance



**FREEbies** & Discounts

Download the Petron Value Card app for more details.



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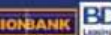
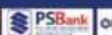
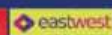
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